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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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the right choice

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ROCK ON: The council will stage the free Create music festival this year after local businesses backed the event

■ BY ED HILL

THE Create Festival will go ahead this year as local business support convinces the council to continue funding the event.

The free summer music festival held in Victoria Park, which attracts up to 5,000 people, was threatened due to council funding shortages.

But thanks to local firms stepping in to back the festival the council has decided to continue supporting for the event, and says the extra money means Create will be able to attract bigger acts and improve safety.

Arts development officer Chris Dixon said: "I am delighted that Create will be back in 2010 for its fifteenth birthday, and heartened to see how much faith Ashford has in this event."

Support

"The festival has continually grown in size over the years and with the fresh wave of support I have received from the public and local businesses, we have the chance to make this one the best showcases for youth and contemporary music in the region."

Create has become one of the biggest free festivals in the South East. The 2009 event attracted more than 5,000 visitors to the town.

The new sponsors explained why they had decided to get on board with the event.

Chad Jenner of Audio Energy said: "The Create music festival has been the best platform for music in Ashford over the years, and we hope that with the new Audio Energy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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1 Brave swimmers go for an icy dip in Dover Harbour on Boxing Day. Search 'Boxing Day' @yourkenttv.co.uk



2 Kent Fire and Rescue Service demonstrate the aftermath of a crash. Search 'carnageddon' @yourkenttv.co.uk



3 Julie Maddocks looks at the new housing development at Kingshill. Search 'Kingshill' @yourkenttv.co.uk

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Female soldier scratched PC in club brawl

■ BY ED HILL

A FEMALE soldier has pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer outside the Liquid Nightclub in Ashford.

Natalie Snelson, 19, who is based at Howe Barracks in Canterbury had got drawn into a scuffle when her boyfriend Cameron Mitchell, 25, ended up on the ground in a tussle with another night clubber, Trevor Sparkes.

Miss Snelson, who has served in Afghanistan, had been out that night with her partner who now lives in Scotland.

During her arrest she had scratched the hand of the female police officer who was arresting her.

The court heard the couple had been out that night celebrating after they had heard the news that Miss Snelson's premature baby had been taken off a ventilator.

The couple had met when Mr Mitchell was also a soldier at Howe barracks.

In mitigation the magistrates were told that the couple had been under a prolonged period of strain because of the difficulties with the newborn baby and that Mr Mitchell was travelling back each weekend from Grangemouth in Scotland where he was now employed.

The court heard that Miss Snelson had acted out of character and had told the police she had "overreacted" and was sorry for what had happened.

She was joined in court by her commanding officer. Mr Gurney, the solicitor speaking in her defence, told the bench that if she received a community penalty of more than 100 hours unpaid work she would be immediately discharged from the



FRACAS: Fight took place between clubbers outside Liquid Nightclub

Army and this would be the end of a promising career as a soldier.

Mr David Tawney, chair of the magistrates, fined both Mr Mitchell and Miss Snelson £287 each, including costs.

He said: "This was an impulsive act fuelled by drink and stressful family circumstances. We have taken into account your early guilty plea and the fact that you did not instigate the violence."

Miss Snelson was given a community sentence of 50 hours unpaid work which she will complete during the time serving with the Army. She was also told to pay £20 compensation to the police officer she had injured.

The Army will also hold its own disciplinary hearing into the case.

Festival chance for bands to perform in front of large crowd

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Main Stage, we can raise the bar to the next level."

Fred Mansfield of Regency Marquees added: "Regency is happy to be behind the event for 2010, and for the foreseeable future."

The festival is seen as one of the few opportunities for new bands to get experience playing in front of a big crowd.

Owner of Ashford's Right Track Music School, Chris Bailey, said: "After supporting Create over the last three years, the festival gives some of our pupils the chance to perform in their town, enabling them to realise a dream or to gain experience for future performances, as well as developing as a band or artist."

Bands will be invited to apply to appear at Create in early 2010, and local organisations, businesses or individuals are also invited to submit ideas or proposals for how they can help make Create 2010 an even bigger success.

• For more information visit www.myspace.com/createfestival.

Murder trial date set

A PROVISIONAL trial date has been set for two men accused of murdering Paul Hopkins, a father who died after a brawl outside his home in Beechholme Drive, Kennington.

Christopher Goldfinch, 22, and Scott Stevens, 23, were charged with murder after Mr Hopkins died in Kent and Canterbury Hospital last month.

The father of six suffered serious brain injuries during the attack on August 2 last year and despite having emergency surgery at a London hospital at the time of the attack, died four months later.

The provisional date for the trial is July 12. The men, both from Ashford, have been remanded in custody.

Quad bikes stolen

TWO children's quad bikes have been stolen from a home in Speldhurst Close in Stanhope.

The bikes were Kazuma Meerkat 50-4A machines one coloured red and the other green.

They were taken from the garden of the property on Thursday December 17 between 10.30pm and 11pm.

Anyone with information about the theft is asked to contact DC Alison Oates on 01303 850055 or you can call crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Kent
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Services



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Tsunami charity helping survivors take next step

■ BY ED HILL

IT IS five years since the Boxing Day Tsunami devastated communities in southern Sri Lanka, but one Ashford man has continued to raise money to try and improve the lives of children caught up in the natural disaster.

Devsiri Hewavidana, known as Siri to his friends, founded the UK Friends of Galle to help people in the region he grew up in.

But his charity work has also inspired people in Ashford to travel to the country and see how the work is changing people's lives.

Gill Budd from Queens Road, visited the country with her 14-year-old son last year. She has sponsored five Sri Lankan children.

She said: "We visited a school where the charity had built a library. We had a party for all the children who had been helped. It was incredible because some of them had travelled miles by dirt track just to thank us. It must have taken them three or four hours to get there."

The charity began rebuilding homes but now mainly sponsors children. The money goes towards schoolbooks, computers and even shoes to help the children on their way to school.

Mrs Budd said: "It makes you realise we can make a difference. We had one young man who is now a medical student. He stood up and said if it was not for this charity he would not be able to sustain his studies."

"It was good for my son. In this country I don't think children appreciate how important education is. It is valued so highly Sri Lanka



SUPPORT: (clockwise from top) Schoolchildren with new shoes, Siri (middle) and a family with their new home built with funds from the charity and Valerie Chittenden with Madusha (he lost his mother and three children in the tsunami) and his surviving children who are now sponsored by the charity

because one child who is educated can support the rest of the family."

Mr Hewavidana said he is extremely grateful for the help Ashford people have given but the charity still needs people to come forward and sponsor the young people.

He said: "We have raised nearly £90,000 and given 195 scholarships, built seven Tsunami houses and a library as well as donating nearly 2,000 pairs of shoes and new equipment."

"My father-in-law is starting our latest project to build an English learning centre. The funds came from a lady who donated all the money she received as her wedding gifts."

"The difference between grass-root charities like ours and big ones like Red Cross and World Vision is, with us donors can see the end result of their money, be it supporting a poor orphan or



a new computer for a school with 300 children."

Valerie Chittenden, a member who has also visited the country, said: "Every penny is used to maximum effect and every child who is lucky enough to have a scholarship goes to school."

"There are many kids queuing to be awarded scholarship but unfortunately it's now harder than ever to find sponsors."

Gill Budd added: "The thing about this charity that it is very personal. You know every penny is going towards the children."

To find out more visit www.ukfg.net.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Man charged over threats with sword

POLICE had to deal with a man accused of threatening someone with a large sword in Meadowsweet House in Hackfield.

They were called to the address just after 7pm on December 21.

A 25-year-old man was arrested at the scene shortly after 8pm on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon.

He was released on conditional bail whilst officers make further enquiries.

Police would like to speak to anyone who may have witnessed the disturbance to call PC Christopher Brett on 01622 690690.

They also reassured residents in Hackfield, if they have concerns about crime or anti-social behavior to contact the neighbourhood policing team on 01233 896332.

Arrest over alleged drug deal near school

POLICE have arrested a 22-year-old man on suspicion of dealing drugs near the Norton Knatchbull School.

They began the investigation following complaints from local residents and school staff.

A search warrant was carried out under the Misuse of Drugs Act at an address in Gordon Close on December 22.

During the search, a quantity of herbal cannabis was recovered which had been packaged in preparation to be supplied, along with a substantial amount of cash and suspected stolen clothing.

Soldier's widow in plea for more help

THE wife of a soldier killed in Iraq is calling for the public enquiry into the war to look into support for bereaved families.

Olivia Taylor, 34, who lives in Ashford, lost husband Marc in 2004. She said she was sent a letter three months after his death from the Ministry of Defence saying she would have to move out of Army accommodation.

She also says she was offered bereavement counselling from someone who had no previous training.

She told the Pioneer paper, from her husband's home town Ellesmere Port in Cheshire: "A lot of families don't get the support and the care they deserve - maybe they do for a few months afterwards but after that it's forgotten."

Corporal Taylor had been serving with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers when he died.

New Year's eve blaze

A CONSERVATORY has been destroyed in fire at a home in Willesborough.

The blaze broke out on the evening of New Year's Day in Birling Road at the terraced house around 10pm.

Six people at the property managed to escape, although one had to be treated for burns at the William Harvey Hospital.

The cause of the fire is still being investigated.

Huge £3.3m fine for jeweller who sold fake goods

A SHOP owner from the town has been ordered to pay one of the largest ever fines for trading in fake goods.

Guarcharan Singh, 41, will have to pay back £3.2 million. He also received a two year suspended sentence when he appeared at Canterbury Crown Court.

The case is thought to be the largest amount ever demanded by a Trading Standards investigation.

Mr Singh sold the bags, shoes and jewellery from his shop Chockers in Middle Row as well as at a market stall in Folkestone.

Thousands of pounds worth of counterfeit goods was also found at a warehouse in Chatham.

He was charged with handling £5,000 worth of goods during the hearing.

Singh, who lives in Chatham, has been ordered to pay £3,293,796 within six months.

If he does not meet the deadline,

he will be imprisoned for ten years and will still have to pay back the money.

Singh was charged with 43 counts of possessing and selling fake goods.

Kent Police's Serious Economic Crime Unit and Kent Trading Standards can demand the money under the Proceeds of Crime Act which allows them to recover cash and goods obtained by criminal activity.

Detective Inspector Mark Fairhurst, from Kent Police, said: "Our forensic accountants investigated Singh's accounts and examined his lifestyle. It was clear that his lifestyle was not supported by his legitimate business."

"This is the largest confiscation order achieved by Kent Police and is a direct result of Kent Police and Kent Trading standards working together to tackle organised crime."

The fake shoes, handbags, purses and jewellery will now be destroyed.

Carpets are down

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Eurostar 'needs to work to rebuild confidence'

A FORMER British Airways brand consultant says that Eurostar needs to work hard to regain the public's confidence after the train breakdowns in the cold weather.

Simon Middleton said: "All companies will, at one time or another, face a product crisis and let its customers down."

"The most important thing is how they respond. Eurostar's response was not good enough for the brand or its customers."

The chaos in the run-up to Christmas left more than 55,000 passengers stranded in France, England, Belgium and the Channel Tunnel itself.

Passenger have been asked to write to Eurostar's office in Ashford if they want to claim compensation. The address is: Traveller Care, 2nd Floor, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AP or email Traveller.Care@eurostar.co.uk

How to stay warm and safe during cold weather

KENT Fire and Rescue Service is reminding people to take a few simple safety precautions to stay safe during the winter.

With temperatures remaining low, people often turn to open fires and other heat sources to stay warm but firefighters have the following advice to prevent a blaze:

If you plan on using an open fire, make sure your chimney has been recently swept as build-ups of soot and ash can cause chimney fires.

When going to bed, householders should also make doubly certain that an open fire is either out, or pushed back into the grate and a guard used to prevent sparks hitting carpets or furnishings.

Wildlife park can make use of Christmas waste

STAFF at a wildlife park have appealed for donations of Christmas waste for educational projects.

The Wildwood Trust, near Herne, is asking for old wrapping paper and cards for craft activities at its education centre.

Staff also want biscuit tins and clear plastic sweet boxes to use as storage for specimens and artefacts.

Education officer Laura Hester said: "We want people to donate what would normally get thrown away."

Call to blood donors as supplies run low

■ BY MARIJKE COX

VITAL blood supplies are at risk of falling drastically low – and the NHS is calling on our readers to roll up their sleeves and help restock essential provisions.

Health experts say the drop follows the severe weather which left many people unable to get to donation sessions.

Accidents caused by icy pavements and treacherous driving conditions also meant additional supplies were used across the UK to treat casualties in A&E.

The busy Christmas period was another factor blamed for the decrease in donors.

Claire Dolling, spokesperson from NHS Blood and Transplant, said the festive season always leads to a drop in donors, but this year the problem had been even worse.

"Because Christmas fell on a Friday this year, there were fewer blood donor sessions over the two-week period; six full days and two half days instead of the usual 10 full days," she said. "It's vital that people continue to give blood – especially at this time of year as stocks traditionally take a drop."

"Christmas can be a hectic time for many.



With all the preparations and anticipation for the festive season, giving blood can fall down the 'to do list'. We are urging your readers to think of others and give blood, as it really does save lives.

"Blood stocks have to be constantly replenished, and we'd like to get more people regularly giving blood in the Kent area."

Donated blood – which is used in life-saving operations – cannot be stockpiled as the two components taken from it have short shelf lives.

Ms Dolling said: "Platelets – a clotting factor used to help treat leukaemia and cancer patients – last for just five days."

"Red cells last longer, at 35 days, and are often transfused to patients suffering from severe anaemia or severe blood loss."

"It's therefore vital that both regular and new donors come forward to give blood and ensure sufficient blood is available for patients."

Ruth Greenaway, from the National Blood Service, part of NHS Blood and Transplant, said although supplies in the county were not yet at rock bottom, the spell of severe weather had hit stocks.

"The bad weather kept people from getting to their donation sessions," she said.

"We can't stockpile blood. Red cells only have a shelf life of 35 days and platelets just a few days. People should make it their New Year's resolution to give blood – it's only once every 16 weeks."

Ms Dolling added: "Giving blood is one of most selfless acts you can do to help others."

"It takes less than an hour, is painless and you never know when you may need blood yourself."

"Appointments can be made so you're not kept waiting and many people fit it in on their way to or from work."

"If it's been on your to do list for ages and you haven't got around to it, then tick it off today."

To find out how to become a donor go to www.blood.co.uk or call 0300 123 23 23.

Fire crews rescue dog trapped for six days

A FIVE-hour rescue by firefighters got Lucky the dog out of a badger sett just in time for Christmas.

The 12-year-old Lakeland Patterdale cross had been stuck for six days before his dramatic rescue on Christmas Eve.

Lucky went missing on a walk in woodland near the William Harvey hospital in Ashford on Friday, December 18.

Owner Sue Williamson said: "We searched for two days, but had no joy. On the Wednesday we heard Lucky barking, but had to leave him until it got light when the firefighters arrived."

Alerted by the RSPCA, crews from the Ashford and Larkfield stations, and the

urban search and rescue team, used cameras and listening devices to find Lucky. Larkfield firemen cut down trees to make sure the area was safe and the crew from Ashford dug down to rescue the dog.

Larkfield station manager Colin King said: "It took about five hours but we're delighted at the successful outcome."

Lucky was taken to a vets with dehydration and a serious eye infection which needed an operation, but was home by Sunday.

Mrs Williamson said: "He has made a fantastic recovery, thanks to the firefighters."

"We can't get over how dedicated they all are and this has been a brilliant Christmas present for us."



RESCUED: Lucky is reunited with his owners after his six-day ordeal in a badger sett



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PROFESSIONAL: Firefighters lift off the roof of the car during the demonstration in Canterbury city centre

Playing victim of car accident an eye-opener

■ BY NICK AMES

JOURNALISTS often – probably too often – have to write about car crashes and the clichés come easily to the keyboard.

“Emergency services rushed to the scene” is one, then there is “cut from the wreckage”, or “pulled to safety” before “condition is reported as comfortable/stable/critical” – which is usually the last readers hear of the victim.

A cold day in the centre of Canterbury gave me the chance to see what it is like – without the pain and grief – to be the person at the sharp end of a road accident.

The county’s emergency services wanted someone to play the part of a driver stuck behind the wheel of a crashed car while they demonstrated to the public how rescues were carried out – as well as explaining the dangers of drink driving.

The road show, which involves firefighters and paramedics, has toured the county to drive home the safety message.

After a short briefing I was wedged into the car which had been placed in Rose Square by Whitefriars Shopping Centre and a crowd of several hundred gathered round.

One firefighter carried on a commentary as the team prepared. I was in the driver’s seat and the exercise started.

A firefighter came to the window of the car and asked me how I was feeling. “Can you move at all?” he said. “Where is it hurting?”

I had been told to simulate spinal injuries so I said my back and shoulders – he told me not to nod my head and just to keep calm.

A crash helmet had been put on my head and a neck brace strapped to my torso. An oxygen mask was then put on me and a mock-up plasma bag strapped to my arm.

Another firefighter then came into the back seat: “You’re in no danger,” he reassured me. “I wouldn’t be here if you were.”

Just as I was getting used to it – and it wasn’t really claustrophobic – a microphone appeared under the mask and I heard the question “How do you feel?”

“Err, well okay really, I know I’m in good hands. I don’t feel in danger, I don’t feel trapped or shut in, I’m just relying on people who obviously know their jobs.”

A female Fire and Rescue Brigade mem-

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bers told me her job was to keep the victim calm by talking.

“The person is obviously in shock, but my job is to keep on reassuring them,” she said.

The voice behind me then said: “They are starting to cut the roof off, but sit tight, you’ll be okay.”

An icy blast of wind assured me the car was well and truly cracked open, as the wind-screen was also removed.

A stretcher was manoeuvred down the back of the seat and I was pulled on to it.

“One, two, three four pull,” said a member of the emergency crew as I was pulled on to the stretcher, strapped up, and removed from the wreck.

The whole procedure was remarkably smooth, and I never felt that I was in a problem situation. I know it’s not real and I wasn’t hurt. I could hear, mostly, and see, a bit, everything that went on.

But I admired the way the crews, firefighters and paramedics, carried out their tasks.

It must be really grim when the victim has lost a limb or is close to death.

But the professionalism they showed and their ability to communicate and reassure me convinced me there are probably no finer people in the world to be forced to rely on when your life is at stake.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Steam engine to rescue

STRANDED rail passengers were given a helping hand during the cold snap – by a steam locomotive.

As heavy snow brought much of Europe’s rail network to a standstill, the Tornado steam train completed the route from London Victoria to Dover twice on Monday, December 20, carrying commuters left stranded by modern trains.

The Tornado, a Peppercorn Class A1 steam train, now operates excursion tours and took a group of enthusiasts almost 20 years to build.

It was unaffected by the icy weather and dropped passengers at various stations along the Network Rail main line before its arrival in Dover.

Mark Allatt, chairman of The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, said: “We delighted that she was able to brave the arctic weather to haul two of the few trains to run in Kent.”

Actress Joanna ‘national hero’ for Gurkha campaign

ACTRESS Joanna Lumley has been named as one of the Heroes of 2009 by The Daily Telegraph.

The paper said she “became an established national treasure when she battled for recognition for the Gurkhas.”

In salute an article stated “She has always held the regiment in deep esteem and affection – her father, Major James Lumley, served in Burma during the Second World War with the 3rd Battalion of the 6th Gurkha Rifles – and she was outraged to discover that Nepalese soldiers were denied the right to live in the UK.

“She became the figurehead for the Gurkha Justice Campaign, using her intellect and elegance to bully, belittle and badger the Government into a policy change.

“Her triumph has meant that those brave Nepalese soldiers who have fought for Britain across the globe, and who retired before 1997, will now be entitled to live here, along with their families.”

Last month the former Absolutely Fabulous star sent “a blizzard of kisses” to Kent on Sunday and its readers for supporting her campaign for the soldiers currently based in Folkestone and Maidstone.



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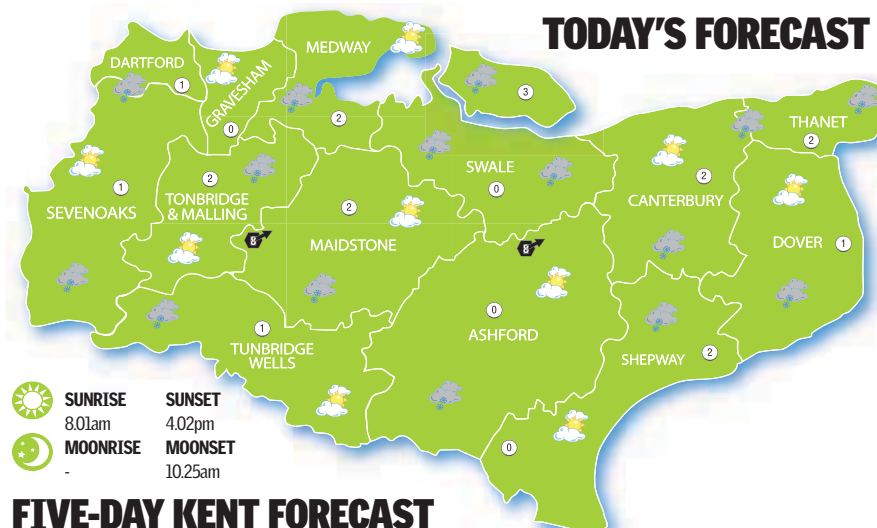
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Chatham	Saturday	7:00am	5.3m
	Sunday	8:11am	5.1m
Dover	Saturday	6:09pm	5.5m
	Sunday	6:37am	5.7m
Dungeness	Saturday	6:03pm	6.2m
	Sunday	6:35am	6.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	6:39pm	4.2m
	Sunday	7:07am	4.3m
Sheerness	Saturday	6:48am	5.2m
	Sunday	7:59am	5.0m
Whitstable	Saturday	6:49am	4.9m
	Sunday	8:05am	4.7m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	1°C	Madrid	8°C
Athens	10°C	New York	-6°C
Barcelona	10°C	Paris	-3°C
Beijing	-11°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	22°C
Cape Town	26°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	0°C	Tokyo	6°C
Gibraltar	17°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	-6°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	21°C

Threatened horse refuge reveals it has the X Factor

X FACTOR'S Mr Nasty has come to the rescue of sick and abused horses at a refuge under threat of being shut down.

Music mogul Simon Cowell heard about the possible closure of The Horse Refuge, near Tenterden, and – completely out of the blue – contacted owners Sara and Alan Ross to offer his help.

The 50-year-old record producer even asked his friends not to buy him any Christmas presents and to instead donate to the sanctuary. He aims to raise £600,000 to help horse experts Mr and Mrs Ross continue to run their refuge from Dobells Farm, in Wittersham.

The couple recently received devastating news that the farm was being sold and unless they could raise the funds to buy it, they would be evicted.

Mrs Ross told Kent on Sunday if that happens, many of the 40 horses they look after – who are too old or sick to travel – would die. But animal-lover Cowell has stepped in to help the couple.

Mrs Ross said: "I received a call two weeks ago from his secretary saying he wanted me to come in and see him. It was completely unexpected. He told me that he wants to raise awareness and help save the sanctuary. "He said he was proud of our wonderful work and wants to make sure it continues. He has thrown us a lifeline – we have a chance now."

Cowell has made a big donation, although the amount has not been revealed. Mr and Mrs Ross have until January to raise the full £600,000 needed to cement the future of the sanctuary – which is home to Duke, Europe's tallest horse, standing in at 6ft 6in (pictured above).

To donate go to www.thehorserefuge.org.



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	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	3°C	2°C	1°C	1°C	2°C	Gravesend	3°C	2°C	2°C	2°C	2°C
Canterbury	2°C	2°C	1°C	1°C	1°C	Maidstone	3°C	2°C	1°C	1°C	2°C
Chatham	3°C	3°C	2°C	2°C	2°C	Ramsgate	2°C	2°C	1°C	1°C	1°C
Dartford	3°C	2°C	2°C	2°C	2°C	Rochester	3°C	3°C	2°C	2°C	2°C
Dover	3°C	1°C	1°C	1°C	2°C	Sevenoaks	2°C	0°C	0°C	0°C	0°C
Faversham	3°C	3°C	2°C	2°C	2°C	Sittingbourne	3°C	3°C	2°C	2°C	2°C
Folkestone	3°C	1°C	1°C	1°C	2°C	Tonbridge	3°C	1°C	0°C	1°C	1°C
Gillingham	3°C	3°C	2°C	2°C	2°C	Tun Wells	3°C	1°C	0°C	1°C	1°C

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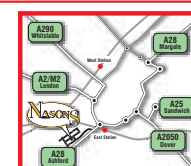
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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

REZAUL KABIR RAJA



Q How long have you had the restaurant?

A We have two in Tenterden, one opened in 1999 and this one in 1994. Recently we opened a restaurant in Maidstone.

Q How did you start the business?

A My first site was a takeaway in New Eltham, South London, but I wanted to open a restaurant and looked around Kent. I thought the Tenterden area was beautiful, the people seemed very nice and the age demographic was right. I thought this was an area worth investing in.

Also there were not many good Indian restaurants here at that time. My first business was in Tenterden but did mainly takeaways. Customers said open a proper restaurant your and business will do well. I found this place and although it's out in the country, it's a nice location it is easy to park.

When the business opened it was all word of mouth. My Maidstone site is the largest Indian restaurant in Kent with 300 seats. We opened it up in an old Salvation Army church. It has been a real challenge, but so far it has been doing very well.

Q You use some unusual ingredients in your recipes

A I started as a chef and worked in many places around the country to get a lot of

experience. This meant I developed my own style of recipes and I pass that on to my staff.

I use ingredients such as venison, pheasant and scallops. They are very popular and they work well with Indian cooking.

Gordon Ramsay recently cooked venison curry and told everyone how well it worked with Indian spices. After that my sales of venison have gone through the roof. I said to my chef we seem to be going through venison twice as fast as usual. Now I just need him to say the same about scallops.

Q What's unique about your restaurants?

A I give priority to customers. Every month we have a staff meeting to make sure they are looking after the customers. This is the most important thing. I would say 80 per cent of my customers as regulars and they keep coming back. It is the whole thing building friendships and reputation.

Q You hold quite a lot of charity events here, why is that?

A I like helping people. I have my own charity, called Raja Helping Hand. I help people in poor countries like Bangladesh. I have lots of connections with that country.

I use the money for education to help build schools. I have helped an area where there is no school for 15 miles. I also help old people who have difficult illnesses such as blindness.

I pay them to go to hospital for eye operations and medicine. I also help to pay for weddings. In Bangladesh marriage is very important, but it can be hard for poor people to pay for the ceremony. I have helped meet the cost of 20 to 30 weddings because it is so important and people can become the victims of corruption and not get their weddings paid for.

I encourage young couples to get married at the right age because it gives them independence and helps them to build their own lives. This is important because in a poor country marriage is vital for society.

We also stage events for charities here such as Hi Kent and hospices.

Q Do you think the Indian restaurant trade can still grow?

A Yes, but I think Indian restaurants have to be more modern and classier than they used to be. They have to be contemporary.

Q Have you enjoyed your business?

A I love my job. I work very hard and I can't remember the last time I had a day off. I work long hours but it's worth it and never boring.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A I like to spend time with my family and three children.

The owner of the Raja of Kent restaurant in Tenterden tells **Ed Hill** about his expanding business, unusual ingredients, why the customer is king and the importance of charity work both here and abroad

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Police call to share Stack costs

Agencies urged to take responsibility

■ BY NICK AMES

POLICE leaders are calling on other agencies to help pay the £2 million needed to run Operation Stack instead of forcing Kent's taxpayers to foot the bill.

Operation Stack is implemented to sections of the M20, should ferries from the Port of Dover or the Channel Tunnel stop running – turning the motorway into a lorry park until services to Europe resumes.

Burden

The responsibility for Stack originally fell with Kent Police when it first ran on the A2 at Lydden in the 1980s, as the Highways Agency did not exist, but now the Kent Police Authority thinks it is time to share the burden.

Ann Barnes, Chair of the Authority, has called for a long-term solution for Stack after the bill for policing the foreign lorries during 2008/09 cost Kent taxpayers about £2million and each time takes up hundreds of hours of valuable police time.

Mrs Barnes said: "No one has taken any responsibility for Operation Stack. This is not a local problem, but a national one.

"Our officers should be in our communities



CLOSED: Operation Stack is enforced on parts of the M20 when cross-Channel ferry services are disrupted

and our neighbourhoods keeping people safe and doing what we pay them to do.

"I think it's shocking that police time is being spent babysitting foreign lorry drivers.

"It's grossly unfair that our police council taxpayers here in Kent have to pay for this.

But from a safety perspective we have no choice.

"Without Kent Police, Operation Stack would grind the county to a halt. The economic impact would be enormous."

Chief executive of the authority, Mark

Gilmartin, said: "We are not trying to shift the responsibility completely as that wouldn't fair at all and not want we want to do, but we need to look at other partner agencies getting involved.

"Kent Police needs to be involved as there is the safety issue, but it's not right to always use our front line resources, our officers should be in the community."

In response to the police authority's call for extra help to operate Stack, the Highways Agency says it has contributed and does not have the funds to give any more.

A Highways spokesman said: "The Highways Agency has made significant capital investment – around £10 million in the last four years – into Operation Stack including provision of the Quickchange Moveable Barrier, advance signing on approaches to junctions on the M20, CCTV, traffic officers and other associated costs."

The effect of Stack, when implemented, also hits companies financially.

The Federation of Small Businesses estimated that blockades at Calais port and the subsequent stoppage of crossings costs the UK haulage industry £1 million a day.

And with delays on deliveries and traffic problems caused by Stack, a further half a million daily is lost.

The latest implementation of Stack which took place last month follows three other occasions it has been brought in this year and 21 times last year – which includes the eight implementations for the Sea France strike between February 28 and March 15, last year.

Kent Council County's favoured option to deal with Stack is to open giant lorry parks to keep truckers of the M20 when the ports are closed.

Hauliers slow to pay £1.5m immigrant smuggling fines

TRUCK drivers are not being punished enough for smuggling illegal immigrants from Calais into the UK.

That is the conclusion of an inspection into the work carried out by the United Kingdom Borders Agency (UKBA).

The report was published by the agency's independent inspector John Vine.

He found that £1.5 million worth of fines were still to be collected by the agency from lorry companies whose vehicles had been found to contain illegal immigrants.

Under the law, introduced in 2000, haulage companies can be fined up to £4,000 and if they fail to pay they can have the vehicle impounded.

However, the report found that almost no

companies or drivers had been added to the agency's vehicle seizure list since September 2008.

In his report Mr Vine said: "We saw little effective leadership or accountability for the civil penalty process within the UKBA."

The inspectors blamed a lack of resources, poor management and a lack of targets that affectively allowed lorry companies to ignore the law.

Stowaways

The number of stowaways found in trucks in France has massively increased over the last three years.

In 2007 4,241 were found by UKBA staff, this had risen to 8,058 by September 2009.

The report said that although officers on the ground in Calais tried to do their best to carry out searches they lacked the equipment and facilities to do the job.

Mr Vine said: "We found there was a shortage of basic equipment available to staff, including torches, cameras and bolt-cutters.

"The accommodation at Calais was also very limited – in terms of both the space and facilities available for staff and customers."

If lorry drivers were caught with illegal immigrants in their trucks the penalty fine system was not acting as a deterrent.

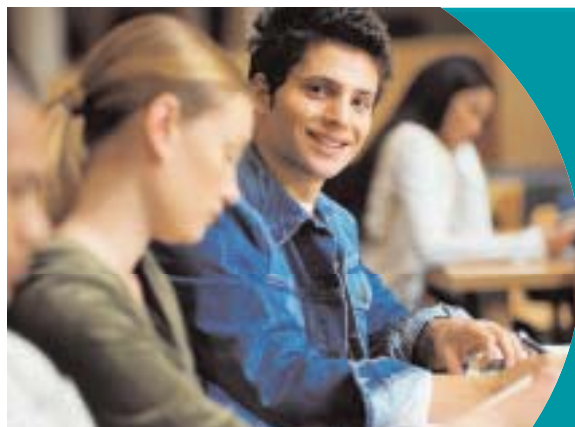
A large backlog of cases had built up meaning that the agency would resort to sending out warning letters and not issue a fine because of lack of staff.

Mr Vine said that more vehicles should be impounded by the UKBA because in most cases the fine was paid within two days.

He concluded: "We found no evidence to show that quality reviews were undertaken in relation to the civil penalty scheme, either to identify opportunities for improvement or to ensure consistent application of the scheme."

Ashford MP and Conservative spokesman on immigration Damian Green said the report was another example of the chaos in the immigration system.

A spokesman for the UKBA said that it had recovered £250,000 of fines since April; it was improving its holding facilities in Calais and speeding up its processing service.



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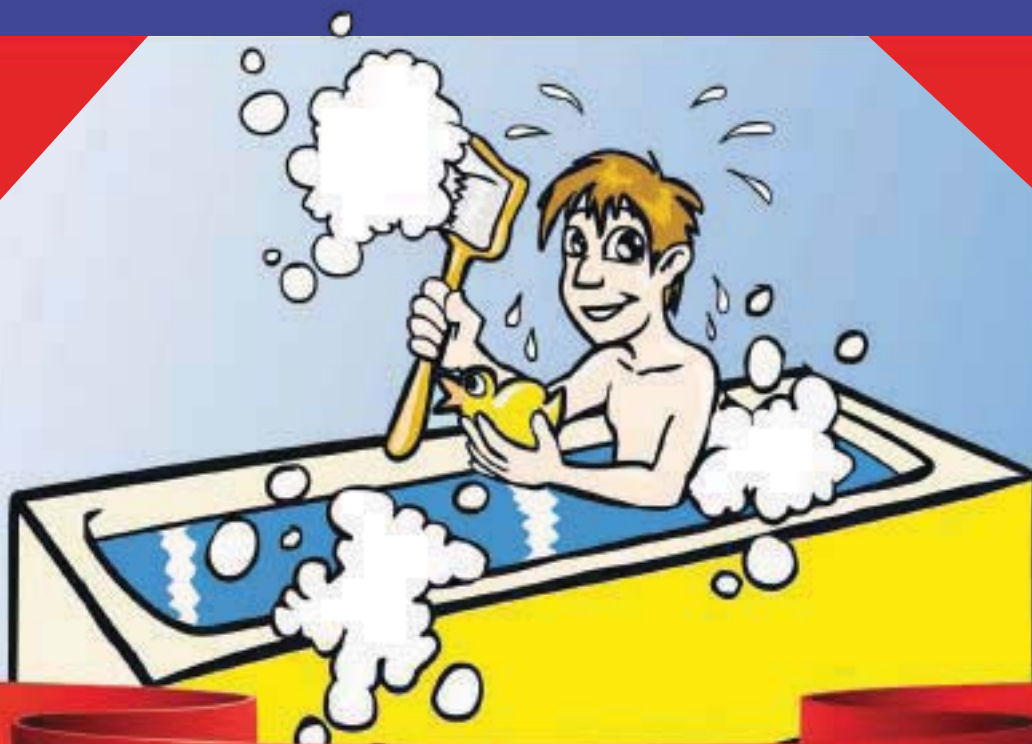
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Bravery of Scout trio is rewarded

THREE Scouts from across the county have received commendations for acts of bravery in emergency situations.

Andrew Hunt, 18, from Deal; Kirstie Greenslade, 17, from Thanet; and Hannah Walker, 15, from Sheppey, have been presented with awards for decisive action during three traumatic incidents last year.

All their actions helped to prevent others coming to harm.

Andrew was taking part in a Scout expedition to South Africa when an Italian fisherman got into difficulties. For his life-saving actions Andrew was awarded the Silver Cross.

The citation reads: "In recognition of his courage when he rescued a fisherman who had been swept out to sea by a rip tide and rough waves, whilst putting himself at considerable risk his actions were the result of this life-saving incident at Cape Vidal, South Africa, August 2009."

Kirstie, who is an Explorer Sea Scout with the 1st St Peters Group, used her training to rescue a man from the sea and was awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct.

■ BY NICK AMES

The citation reads: "In recognition of her prompt and appropriate action when she went to the rescue of a swimmer who was unconscious, she shouted for assistance while keeping his head above water and then helped get him to safety on June 28, 2009."

Hannah's swift action at Minster College, Sheppey, when a heating duct collapsed during a school exam, earned her the Gilt Cross.

The citation read: "In recognition of her bravery and quick thinking when she saw a ventilation duct falling from the ceiling during a school examination, she pushed a fellow pupil to safety and was injured herself as a result of her actions, but despite this offered first aid to others."

Scout officials said the trio acted out of instinct and put themselves at risk in order to save the lives of others.

Chief Scout and TV action man Bear Grylls said: "These Scouts have shown great bravery and their acts are an inspiration. Scouts train for these moments. I am so proud that when it mattered they showed great scouting spirit."



SCOUTS HONOUR: Hannah Walker (left), with Andrew Hunt and Kirstie Greenslade

A fat lot of good that will do our feathered friends

PEOPLE are being urged not to put leftover fat from roast dinners out for the birds as it is extremely dangerous to our feathered friends.

Many believe turkey fat is as beneficial to wild birds as other fats such as lard and suet, says the RSPB. They pour it onto bird tables or mix it with seed, thinking it will give birds energy and nutrients – but the charity is warning it could kill them.

RSPB adviser Kirsie Peck said: "Using fat from roasting tins to feed to garden birds is a big no-no. Roasting tin fat will be mixed with lots of other juices which will go off very quickly and cause disease on bird tables."

Damage

"It could also damage birds' feathers, which are important for keeping them healthy and warm. And salt added to meat can have a devastating effect of its own."

"This time of year always brings out the suggestion that it's a good idea and people want to do all they can to help wildlife, but in reality they could be killing them with kindness."

Cooked turkey fat is completely unsuitable for birds. It remains soft even when cooled, meaning it could smear on birds' feathers and ruin their water-proofing and insulating qualities. Birds need clean, dry feathers to survive the cold and a layer of grease would make this virtually impossi-

ble. The softness of turkey fat means it is impractical to make 'bird cake' mixed with seed as it will not harden enough to hold its shape.

Because the fat in roasting tins cannot be separated from other elements such as meat juices, the mixture can go rancid quickly. This forms a breeding ground for salmonella and other bacteria.

At this time of year birds are particularly prone to bacterial infections as their defences are low and energy levels depleted with the cold. Also, people add other ingredients to a joint of meat before roasting, including rubbing it with salt to crisp the skin. High levels of salt are toxic to garden birds.

The RSPB suggests leaving out scraps which would be beneficial to birds, including cake crumbs, pastry crumbs and biscuit crumbs. Other suitable leftovers include mild grated cheese, cooked or uncooked rice, breakfast cereals, cooked potatoes and fruit.

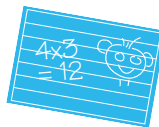
The charity says additional feeding at this time of year can be the difference between life and death, particularly for smaller garden birds.

Ms Peck said: "Natural food will be in short supply. We always have so much food at this time of year and people love to put leftovers to good use. As long as we know which foods are suitable we could really help our birds fight the cold."

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WARMING TO SUCCESS: Youngsters at the North School have had a good year showing the animals they look after

Youngsters growing into fine farmers

■ BY ED HILL

THIS year has been a busy time for the young farmers at the North School in Willesborough.

Although the wet weather means students have spent most of the time in Wellington boots, they still show animals in top condition at the Primestock Fayre in Ardingly and Fatstock at Ashford cattle market.

Fifteen students attended a small animal course in Maidstone to learn about poultry, rabbit and guinea pig husbandry. The school also took part in the Young Farmers Quiz.

Student Jordan Kitcherside was named Kent School Young Farmer of the Year.

To mark the end of the winter term the school held its annual Carols with the Cows service on the farm.

Celebration

Singing of traditional songs could be heard above the contented lowing of cattle as members of the school community both young and old joined staff to celebrate the festive season and mark the end of another successful year.

Teacher Stephen Dove said: "It is care and responsibility that helps builds communities

and whether rain, snow or sun our students have worked hard morning and evening to ensure our farm animals are well cared for and our vegetable plots productive.

"We were delighted that so many people joined and supported us to make the carol evening such a special event.

"Children and adults enjoyed seeing the animals and talking to our students as well as singing, eating soup and mince pies and visiting Santa's grotto."

During the carol service £500 was presented to headteacher Lesley Ellis by Sheila Twyman on behalf of Holiday Extras who support the school farm. The company gave the money because it considers the school an essential community resource for learning.

Mrs Ellis said: "I would like to thank the staff, students and all our friends and neighbours who have supported the farm and contributed to this unique evening.

"We wish you all a happy New Year on behalf of The North School Farm and Young Farmers Club."

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BREAK TIME

Cheque presented to Air Ambulance

STUDENTS at the Towers School recently handed a cheque for £600 to the Kent Air Ambulance.

The money came from collections taken during the school's bonfire night celebrations in November.

More than 650 people turned up for the event and were fed with creations by the school's catering students.

The money raised will help fund the emergency helicopter which also serves Sussex and Surrey.

Headteacher Malcolm Ramsey said: "The work the Air Ambulance does is extremely important, and can only continue through the generosity of the people it serves. This was another event the community has supported excellently, and we are proud to have helped raise so much money for the Kent Air Ambulance."

The event was organized with the help of Linda Bolt and Rachael Atley, extended school coordinators.

They said: "We want to thank the community for turning up, including students from local universities."



Kids choirs in final

TWO Ashford schools made it through to the final of the Heart FM Xmas Factor carol competition.

They were Kingsnorth Primary School and Great Chart Primary School.

Breakfast presenter James Heming said: "We always get a great response from our listeners for this competition. We received more than 5,000 votes."

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk



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yourashfordblogger

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Parking hogs probably leave their towels on sunbeds, too

FORGET first come, first served. Parking in my street is one for all and all for one – and their friends, family and acquaintances.

Spaces in resident parking bays are sunloungers on a holiday resort. Cars are the towels, used by their owners to reserve spaces for their nearest and dearest. Unfortunately, cars aren't so easy to pick up and chuck away when the reservation lasts all day. Forget love thy neighbour. It has become a battle between households out there.

It started when some absent-minded resident left their car in the middle of a double bay while they were on holiday for two weeks. (I wonder what their towel etiquette was like).

This eliminated a space for the rest of us – most annoying. Some residents left little notes on its windscreen, politely, and some not-so-politely, requesting the culprit considers their neighbours when parking in future. Fair

enough I suppose. However, the note-writers have now adopted this strategy and are using it to their own advantage.

They park deliberately in the middle of two-car bays, or several feet before the end of a larger bay to save spaces for the other family cars.

One household is fortunate enough to have a garage and a drive. However, they still hog a space in the public parking bay all day, in order to keep a space for one of their other three cars. All the while their drive sits empty. They employ the same tactic for visitors, of which there are many.

I know parking is a problem. My heart sinks when I pull into my jam-packed road and am forced to park on the other side of the county instead. It's inconvenient for my husband as well, who has heavy tools to transport from his van to the house.

It's irritating, but the note-writers behind this new 'game' are more infuriating. Especially when you ask them gently if they

can move their car up, so you can park in the street you also pay your permit for, and they point blank refuse! What happened to the "consideration for your neighbours" they harked on about? Three words to the hypocritical note-writers: pot, kettle and black.

It's not the council's fault, but it is ironic that the price of permits continues to increase, while the actual spaces disappear.

At present I still have my principles and refuse to participate in this selfish activity. I don't have the audacity to rob spaces from my other neighbours, who face the same dilemma. Maybe I'm soft, but I don't want to enter into this battle for the bays. I prefer to believe in the illusion that some sort of neighbourhood camaraderie and respect still exists.

Needless to say, I won't be holidaying at the same time and on the same resort as any of the note-writers. I'd probably end up sunbathing on the road outside the hotel if they had their way. Then again, maybe not. That'd be jammed full with their hire cars.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **ASH** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include your name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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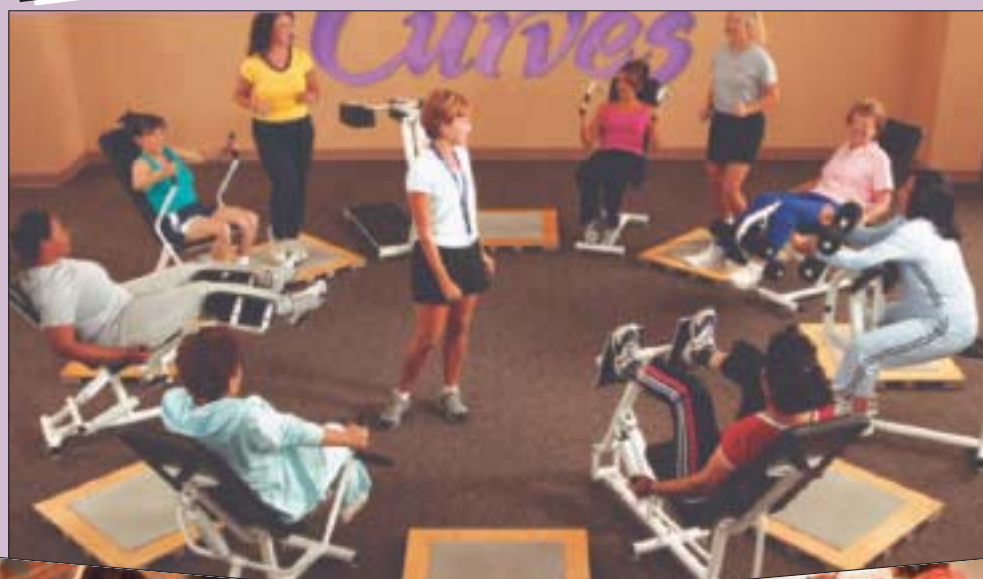


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Award Winning Company

WIN a year's gym membership



LADIES: win a year's free membership – worth more than £400 – at Curves of Ashford and start this year on a healthier note.

Curves of Ashford, in Drum Lane, behind County Square/Argos, is under new ownership. Phillipa Gill, who also owns Curves in Maidstone south, took possession of the Ashford club in August and the membership is growing, with many women already achieving great results.



"I'm excited to become part of the Ashford Curves community," said Phillipa. "I'm looking forward to helping women reach amazing results, both physical and emotional, through our Curves workout programme and support network."

With the average person gaining three kilos in weight a year, a reasonable workout regimen that can fit into today's busy lifestyle of work and family is critical to help combat diabetes, osteoporosis, hypertension, heart disease and other health risks women face.

The Curves workout allows women of all ages and fitness levels to perform all five of the components of a complete fitness programme, combining strength and cardiovascular training through safe, effective hydraulic resistance – and all in just 30 minutes. For more information, phone 01233 627299.

New for 2010: Curves weight management classes will be starting this month and are free for members and non-members alike. Are you fed up with dieting? Then this is the class for you. We will help you raise your metabolism to ensure permanent results without permanent dieting.

The first class will take place on Saturday, January 16. For more details and to register, phone 01233 627299. And don't forget – we have free parking. To enter the competition, simply answer this question:

Where is Curves of Ashford located?

Send your entry on a postcard, along with your email address (if applicable), name, address and daytime phone number to: Curves Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is January 20, 2010.

Terms and conditions. No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions, visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy, phone 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature, please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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Saturday 9th	Brighton Ice Show	£34.00
Sunday 17th	Brighton Ice Show	£34.00
Wednesday 20th	Maidstone & Newnham Court Shopping Village	£7.50
Saturday 23rd	Brighton Ice Show	£34.00

February

Monday 1st	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Thursday 4th	Ikea & Lakeside	£16.50
Saturday 6th	De Panne	£19.50
Monday 15th	Dickens World	£16.00
Thursday 18th	Boulogne & Nausicaa	£25.00
Saturday 20th	Disneyland, Paris	£67.50
Wednesday 24th	Brick Lane Music Hall	£37.50

March

Monday 1st	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Sunday 7th	London Eye & Thames Cruise	£37.50
Tuesday 9th	Westfield Shopping Centre	£17.00
Thursday 11th	Kensington Palace	£25.00
Saturday 13th	De Panne	£19.50
Friday 19th	The Stitch & Craft Show 2010 at Olympia	£22.00
Sunday 21st	Yesterdays World & Battle Abbey	£16.50
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TALK TIME

KATE AUSTEN

The owner of Pod Plus at the Julie Rose Stadium talks about her business and the facilities available at the stadium



How long has your business been here?

We opened in May 2005. We sell shoes for sports activities such as running, tennis and hockey, as well as other clothing and equipment. We also have a couple of treatment rooms where people can have physiotherapy, biomechanics, podiatry and so on. When people buy their shoes we can put them on a treadmill to check their gait. It's very important to get the right footwear so you can avoid injury.

What is it like working at the stadium?

It's a very nice place to work. It also allows us to let people try out their new shoes on the track. It is a great facility, and people can pop down here anytime when it is open and use the track. It's great way to train as you can use the track to check distances and it's a very safe environment to go jogging.

You were named Kent young Entrepreneur of the year at the Kent Excellence in Business awards. How did that come about?

My brother and I set up the business with the help of the Princess's Trust. We also have had some recent support from the Kent Foundation. We have had to work hard to make the business work - we have done a lot of the marketing ourselves at sports events to help create business and get well known.

YOUR LETTERS



Glad that building will be well-used

I'm pleased that the Muslim centre has got the go-ahead in Torrington Road.

I'd rather the building be used for something useful than sit there and rot, or be used by drug-dealers and squatters as so many empty buildings are.

Steve Wilcox

Community centre for muslims given go ahead



•I don't live in Torrington Road, or anywhere near that area, before anyone accuses me of not practising what I preach.

However, I find it sad that a community pub is being turned into a religious centre.



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourashford.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think.

And remember, www.yourashford.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Ashford and Tenterden as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourashford before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourashford.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

Religions, whatever their denomination, are divisive ... you are either a Muslim or a Christian or an atheist or whatever.

So instead of a use that could have brought the community

together we have a large centre devoted to one group, excluding the rest of the community who do not practise Islam.

Obviously the pub was not well used enough to remain viable, so has gone the way of many in

Britain. It is always a case of use it or lose it, and it looks like the South Eastern Tavern has been lost for good, which is a shame.

Adrian Cilarty, Ashford

Repeated intercom messages t-annoy high-speed rail user



Tannoy system has gone off the rails

I'm glad someone has finally pointed out how irritating the announcements on trains can be. I find them infuriating on the normal service and it's hard to believe they are worse on the high speed link.

Train bosses obviously think their customers are a herd of simpletons who will forget everything they own if they are not reminded to "please make sure you take all your belongings with you."

Or maybe they are worried we are all hard of hearing and generally don't pay attention to things as they insist on repeating the station names at least three times.

I get the train to London in the morning. I get it every morning, along with hundreds of other people. We all know when to get off because we do it every day.

Maybe train bosses could time announcements for when the trains are likely to be used by people other than commuters?

Richard Grant, Ashford

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We need solutions to immigration problems

Our first duty as human beings is to help others in need, if we can.

Fortunately, we have Kent Refugee Help to act on our behalf concerning asylum seekers currently based near Calais who are camping outside in winter.

But as UK Green Party MEPs Jean Lambert and Caroline Lucas have both noted, charity is not enough. We need more elaborate solutions to the illegal movements of people across borders.

We need, in short, to ensure that all movements by people across borders are legal, fair and safe. We need to make sure that people are not trafficked into exploitation of any kind. And we need European countries to act together to achieve this.

But no one should under-estimate how difficult this will be to achieve, or how long it will take.

Unfortunately, as this is written there is no guarantee the Metropolitan Police unit dealing with trafficking will have its funding renewed. And the European Union policies which, in principle, would lead towards common asylum and immigration policies are under-developed and under-funded.

If asylum seekers are to cease to be the favourite scapegoats of those who refuse to see them as human beings deserving humanitarian treatment, then our political leaders need to direct their attention and more resources to the aim of making all movements of people across borders legal, fair and safe.

As I shall be telling postgraduate students studying migration in the new year, the heart-breaking lives of many asylum seekers and stateless people justify our care, not our condemnation.

Steve Dawe, Green Party

So many children still living in severe poverty

Alistair Darling's 'meal deal' promise of free school meals for more children from low-income families is good news for the 50,000 children that the Chancellor says will be lifted out of poverty by this measure.

But this still leaves 1.4 million children living in severe poverty, whose parents struggle on a daily basis to put food on the table. We should be clear that Mr Darling has done little to help those families.

The announced increase in child benefit amounts to just 30 pence extra per week for every eldest child. The overall government target of lifting 650,000 children out of poverty next year is nowhere near being met.

We want all the political parties in the run-up to, and after next year's election, to prioritise these forgotten children. Free school meals are welcome – but so much more needs to be done to ensure the very poorest children are not left behind.

Fergus Drake, Save the Children's director of UK programmes

Challenge yourself and raise cash for charity

As an Olympian and patron of Meningitis UK, I would like to encourage your readers to consider adding a challenge to their list of New Year's resolutions for 2010.

The charity has a wide selection of awe-inspiring and exciting activities for people to choose from, which will not only help them to get fit but also to raise money for a great cause.

Apart from places in many popular running events, opportunities also include skydives and expeditions, both overseas and in the UK.

Ideas closer to home are a cycle from London to Paris or climbing the Three Peaks in under 24 hours.

There are also more unusual adventures, like a 10-day cycle across Cuba, a Mongolian trip on horseback, or a Thailand jungle expedition.

Expeditions include treks, bike rides, mountain climbs, white-water rafting and sailing. Challenges cover various difficulty levels, so there's something for everyone.

I would urge you to raise money for Meningitis UK because six families a week still lose a loved one to meningitis, and many hundreds are left with devastating after-effects.

I fell ill with meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia when I was 15, which left me in a coma for three days. Thankfully, I was lucky enough to pull through and be able to go on to achieve my sailing dreams.

With your help, Meningitis UK will be able to beat this disease and spare thousands of families the heartache of losing a loved one in the future.

To find out more about setting yourself a challenge for Meningitis UK visit www.meningitisuk.org/get-involved or call 0117 373 73 73.

Sarah Ayton

Olympic gold medallist and Meningitis UK patron

Benefit claimants should do community service

I think the high visibility jackets criminals are forced to wear when carrying out community service are a fantastic idea and have been a great success.

What's the good in these offenders clearing rubbish and cleaning graffiti if no-one knows they are doing it or why they are doing it? I think the sight of these anti-social youths on the streets, in the cold, carrying out mundane but socially beneficial tasks will send a clear message out to anyone else who thinks they can flout the law and get away with it.

I'm in favour of the community service system being rolled out beyond the justice system. Why not make those raking in benefits join in? Those who take job seekers' allowance would look a bit harder to find employment if they were not allowed to simply take hard-working taxpayers' money without giving something back.

We need to be tougher if things are going to change.

Thomas Richards
By email

Make volunteering your new year's resolution

Forget resolving to lose half a stone or clear out the shed this New Year and pledge your time to good causes instead.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations is leading a national campaign, called What Do You Believe In?, to encourage people to support causes they care about.

Volunteering is a great way to give to causes you believe in and make a real difference to people's lives. It's free, fun, rewarding and can dramatically improve your career prospects by giving you new experiences or the chance to hone professional skills.

A total of 73 per cent of adults in Britain volunteer in some way, with 17.7 million people volunteering formally at least once a year through specific groups or organisations. It is estimated Britain's volunteers contribute £22.7 billion to the economy.

A string of high-profile celebrities volunteer their time for causes they believe in. Angelina Jolie is a goodwill ambassador for the UN, actor Seth Green volunteers for Amnesty International while fashion stylist Nicky Hambleton Jones and Olympic swimmer Mark Foster have worked a stint in a Barnardo's charity shop, to name just a few.

Volunteering includes all kinds of activities from helping out at a one-off event to manning phone helplines, working in charity shops or helping run clubs such as Scouts and Guides.

To find out more about volunteering in your area, visit www.whatdoyoubelievein.org.uk
Liz Atkins, head of public policy at NCVO

A lonely time for those suffering with arthritis

For most of us, Christmas was a time for family, celebrating with friends, eating wonderful food and exchanging presents.

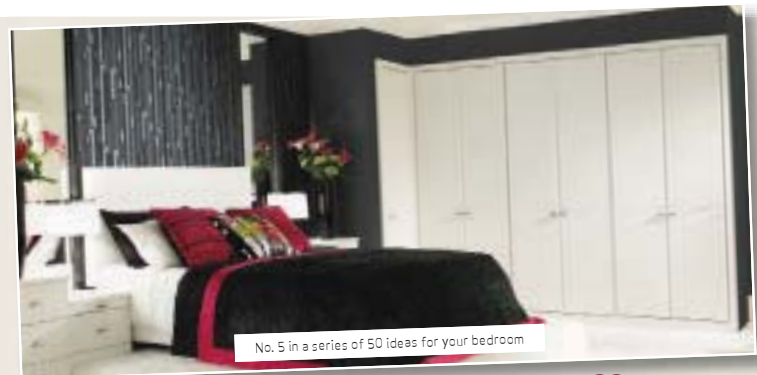
But for many of the UK's nine million people with arthritis, it can be a lonely time. Some may be housebound in icy weather, while others are isolated by pain and the depression it causes, even when surrounded by people.

Arthritis doesn't go away for Christmas, and just because someone doesn't complain doesn't mean they are not suffering. Arthritis Care is opening its help lines for extra days during the holiday so that people who are cut off by pain or loneliness can call and get real support.

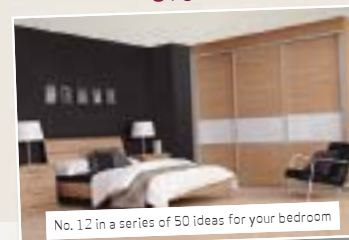
If you or someone in the family has arthritis, do keep Arthritis Care's free number, 0800 800 4050, nearby: it could make a real difference.

Jane Asher,
President, Arthritis Care

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Richard Hammond

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NEW SEASON

Various dates
Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

FROM literary heroines to the ravages of war, the new season at Trinity has an abundance of treats on stage and screen.

Celebrate the life and career of a comic legend in the acclaimed one-man show, Morecambe, in which Bob Golding plays the popular comedian in captivating style. More beloved characters are brought to the stage in Austen's Women, a celebration of the author's most memorable and well-observed heroines.

More great theatre is on offer with the fun-filled Off Her Trolley, Animal Farm, the thrilling Gaslight, Hitchcockian thriller Séance and The Beauty Queen of Leenane, a darkly comic story about a middle-aged woman who finally finds love, much to her dependant mother's annoyance.

Music fans will be spoiled for choice as Five Star Swing, Phillip Dyson, the Tivoli Cafe Band, Ancora Duo, saxophonist Courtney Pine and many more pay visits to Tunbridge Wells.

Get ready to giggle when Jo Caulfield performs her latest show, Jo Caulfield Won't Shut Up, and former gossip columnist Bridget Christie has plenty of hilarious tales to relate in My Daily Mail Hell.

Jazz pianist Peter Gill and actor Andy Meller take the audience back into the 50s and 60s, to relive the comedy of great American satirists, Bob Newhart and Tom Lehrer.

The family entertainment programme includes Auntie Anita, Suzy Sprite and the Chocolate Thief, based on the popular Suzy Sprite stories. Other highlights include Around the World in Eighty Days, Three Favourite Tales, Igor and How the Koala Learnt to Hug.

Film buffs have the opportunity to indulge in fantastic cinema from around the world, such as The Hurt Locker (cert 15), a tense thriller in which bomb disposal experts attempt to stay alive in post-war Iraq. Other cinematic treats include Glorious 39, the award-winning The White Ribbon, The September Issue, Cracks, Tulpan, The Cove, The Men Who Stare At Goats and many more.

For full season listings pick up a brochure or visit www.trinitytheatre.net. Tickets can be booked online or by calling the box office on 01892 678678.



HIGHLIGHTS: Clockwise from above, Austen's Women, comedian Jo Caulfield, and big screen thriller The Hurt Locker



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with
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NEW SEASON

Various dates
Quarterhouse, Folkestone

LAUGH, dance or dream the winter blues away with the fantastic new season of events at Quarterhouse.

Whether you are looking for cracking comedy, toe-tapping music or captivating theatre, there is plenty going on at Quarterhouse this season. Spend an evening with one of the UK's top comics such as Sean Lock (pictured), who visits Folkestone in February. Richard Herring brings his highly-acclaimed, stand-up show Hitler Moustache to Shepway this month, while Perrier Award-winning comedian Laura Solon invites you to indulge in her Rabbit Faced Story Soup.

Great music acts in the programme including underground super-group Spycatcher, Dreadzone and Show of Hands.

Lose yourself in 2010: A Space Oddity or be enthralled by the athleticism of 2 FaCeD DaNcE's Still Breathing. Film buffs can look forward to a busy schedule of screenings and young audiences are not left out of the fun with The Rainbow Fish, Jumping Mouse and Dude! Where's My Teddy Bear?

Visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk or call the box office on 01303 858500 to book tickets.



MAVERICK MUSIC

New season
Various venues in Maidstone

THE regular Maverick music showcases return this year with a spectacular line-up of international talent.

Renowned for bringing the best of Americana, folk, country, roots and more to Maidstone, the locally-based music magazine has presented some fantastic artists.

Despite losing its regular venue at the Zebra Bar, Maverick has secured four new venues – the Breeze Bar, Exchange Studio, Hazlitt Theatre and Pizza Express.

Highlights of 2010 include return visits from Kevin Montgomery, Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart, the Haley Sisters, Alana Levandoski, Dianna Jones, the Bittersweets and Kimmie Rhodes. There will also be debut appearances from Raul Malo (pictured), lead singer with the Mavericks, Hank Williams' granddaughter, Holly Williams, and Suzy Bogguss.

Malo will visit Maidstone as part of his first solo UK tour in eight years and will be at the Hazlitt Theatre, with guests the Haley Sisters, later this month. Legendary Texas singer-songwriter Rhodes will join Williams for a fantastic double bill at the Breeze Bar. Details from www.mavericklive.co.uk or call 01622 744481.



DAVID O'DOHERTY

Saturday, January 30
Gulbenkian Theatre,
Canterbury



AWARD-WINNING comedian David O'Doherty returns to Canterbury later this month with more music-based comedy.

Described as the Ryanair James Bond, this Irish comic has won over fans with his whimsy and knack for drawing humour out of simple ditties played on cheap 80s keyboards.

Choosing his instruments for their versatility, range and ability to fit into sports bags so that he does not get charged for excess baggage on flights, O'Doherty has created a quirky act that won him the IfComedy Award at the 2008 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

He originally dreamed of becoming a jazz pianist, but says his dreams were squashed due to a lack of tal-



ent. Faced with a career as a telemarketer, O'Doherty turned to comedy. He is also an actor, keen cyclist and author, with his latest literary project being a book called 100 Facts About Pandas.

The show, which is suitable for ages 14 and above, starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12.

Book online at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075.

ASHFORD LEISURE

X Factor finalist Ben to entertain at restaurant

FORMER X Factor finalist Ben Mills will show that he has star quality at a gig in Maidstone this week.

He is an accomplished musician and a talented songwriter, playing both piano and guitar.

Mills will be at the Music Room at Pizza Express in Maidstone at 8pm on Friday. Tickets cost £25. For details visit www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk.

Enjoy night at opera when you visit cinema

WITNESS a Royal Opera production from the comfort of a cinema seat this weekend.

On Sunday, Cineworld at the Eureka Leisure Park in Ashford will screen Don Carlo, Verdi's interpretation of Schiller's play. The screening starts at 4pm. To book tickets call 0871 200 2000 or visit www.cineworld.co.uk.

Pub music night offers classics old and new

CLASSIC rock is interspersed with contemporary hits when Live 'n' Kickin' perform.

The five-piece plays cover versions of songs by bands like Green Day, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Kaiser Chiefs, with some golden oldies thrown in. To find out more about them visit their website at www.livenkickin.co.uk.

Live 'n' Kickin' will be playing at The Star in East Hill, Ashford, on Friday.

Publicise your own event on these pages

WOULD you like to see your event publicised on these pages?

Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2.

Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the date of publication. If possible, include a photograph to illustrate your event. We cannot guarantee coverage, but we will do our best.

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Picture: ARAPVOV SERGEY



Dream getaways

Explore the world with these top destinations for 2010

MAKE a New Year's resolution to broaden your horizons by taking the trip of a lifetime this year.

According to the World Travel Guide, tourists will be flocking to enjoy the many diverse pleasures of 10 particular hotspots. So whether you yearn for long, relaxing days on a tranquil beach or the thrill of exploring jungles, mountains or cities, here are some tantalising suggestions for getting away from it all in 2010.

With its violent past now a distant memory, lush and green Colombia offers everything from the exciting cultural life of capital Bogotá to the hedonistic party atmosphere of Cali.

New Zealand tends to be on everyone's travel wish list, so why not make this the year that you discover its dramatic mountains, stunning beaches and abundance of outdoor activities, available all year round. Although New Zealand is firmly on the backpacking trail, the country offers many luxury options for those who like to see the wilderness in style.

From endangered animals to the world's highest mountain, Nepal is home to some of the planet's great wonders. Enjoy the frantic pace of life in Kathmandu, paraglide over the incredible landscape or, if you're feeling really adventurous, make the trek to Everest Base Camp and admire the towering majesty of this captivating mountain.

This year, South Africa will be at the centre of the sporting world when it hosts the 2010 World Cup, but football fans should not forget the beautiful landscapes, thriving cities and

brehtaking wildlife that are waiting to be discovered. India has always fascinated travellers from all over the world, but it takes its share of the sporting limelight this year with the Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Divers and water babies will be in heaven in Mozambique, a tropical strip on the Indian Ocean whose waters reveal a fabulous world of gorgeous maritime wildlife. With good transport links to South Africa, it makes the ideal

COLOMBIA



Picture: GRAHAM S KLOTZ

double break for those travelling for the World Cup.

Find out why Sweden is the European Green Capital with a visit to Stockholm, where life is substantially more eco-friendly and there is a wealth of great culture and even better food to enjoy.

In recent years Croatia has become a really

NEPAL



Picture: ALAN KRAFT

popular holiday destination, with bustling beach resorts and the fascinating walled city of Dubrovnik attracting even the

rich and famous. Turkey is the place to be for galleries, festivals and other exciting events this year, as Istanbul is one of 2010's European Capitals of Culture.

For a truly glamorous getaway, find out why Abu Dhabi is becoming one of the world's top luxury holiday spots. For those with a big budget, a champagne lifestyle awaits in this most decadent and spectacular destination.

For more information on all these destinations, visit www.worldtravelguide.net.

To search for shopping, services, leisure and entertainment log on @
yourkenttv.co.uk



INDIA

Picture: SLONEG



SWEDEN

Picture: RIMAD STADLER



NEW ZEALAND

Picture: DARYL H

ASHFORD SHOPPING

Drive them wild with this high speed present

MOTORSPORT fans can enjoy the ultimate introduction to racing with a track-day voucher for Brands Hatch.

Petrol heads can spend 20 minutes testing the corners and straights with their own vehicle at the famous track with the new introductory vouchers, priced at £20 for bikes and £25 for cars.

The vouchers can be bought online at www.clubmsv.co.uk.

Full trackday vouchers are also available and presented in a gift pack.

Put them on course for their first hole in one

PERFECT birthday gifts are available from Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden.

Treat golf fans to a tuition voucher with one of the Chart Hills' Professional Golfers Association-qualified instructors. They can pick up some tips during one lesson for £30 or make great improvements to their game with a course of six lessons for £150. Call the Pro Shop on 01580 292148.

Find out more about the course and membership at www.charthills.co.uk.

Volunteer yourself for a generous resolution

GIVE something back to the community this year and volunteer at your local British Heart Foundation shop.

There has been a huge rise in the amount of people volunteering for the BHF in the last year and the charity is calling on more generous people to make a New Year's resolution to give their time for a good cause.

For more information about volunteering opportunities call 0844 412 5000 or visit www.bhf.org.uk/shops.

Support the community when you buy locally

STOCK up on locally sourced foods at the new Woods Produce Store at The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells.

Woods Restaurant and Bar has opened the store next door to its existing premises and shoppers can browse a wide variety of food and drink, from locally sourced and produced seasonal goods to fudge, chocolate, rapeseed oil and bath products by Mitchell & Peach, made from Kent Lavender.

See www.woodsrestaurant.co.uk.

Enjoy a healthy start to the year at fitness chain

GET the whole family in shape for 2010 with membership at a David Lloyd Club.

At the time of writing, the fitness chain was offering the chance to win a year's free family membership at your local club. Benefits include a personalised gym programme, a free 30-minute personal training taster session, a free Lose & Shape Up consultation and more.

For more information and to enter visit www.davidlloyd.co.uk. David Lloyd has clubs in Maidstone and Dartford.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS BBC1, 9pm, December 28-29

LAST year I sat and watched re-runs of the 1980s serial *The Day of the Triffids* on digital.

The show had dated worse than kipper ties and was far from perfect, but it was a rather slow-moving, creepy affair that told John Wyndham's classic story well.

So imagine my delight when I heard towards the middle of 2009 that a "re-imagining" was on its way to our screens.

Of all the festive television, it was the one programme I was anxious to see.

Unlike the 80s version, which was made in six parts, this was wrapped up in two – and that was the big problem.

There seems to be a desire to sex-up everything by those in charge at the BBC, to make it faster, louder and just larger in general, while cutting out the subtle nuances vital to the story in favour of staging some huge explosion or other.

It's happened with *Doctor Who*, and now the Triffids have been given a set of go-faster stripes.

The desire to blow up more stuff, run down more corridors and shout a lot more, when sometimes a bit more plot and storytelling would do just fine is a real burn on the story.

After a phenomenon in the sky leaves all who witness it blind, the horrible Triffids, plants with less sense of humour than Heather Mills, and a taste for human flesh, move in.

These are not plants you will find down at the garden centre, and they pick off the helpless masses who have become their food supply and threaten the existence of survivors after the breakdown of society.



ALL-ACTION: Dougray Scott is a fine hero in the 're-imagining' of *The Day of the Triffids*

Dougray Scott was fine as hero Bill Masen, and Eddie Izzard hammed it up to become the villain of the piece, but despite the first part setting a high standard, the whole thing withered when part two arrived.

It is not supposed to be the Triffids that are the creepy thing about the story, but the circumstances surrounding their rise.

The willingness of many people to cut others adrift to survive was an angle that was never nailed down in this adaptation.

Aside from all that, though, this was for the most part good fun and relatively faithful to the classic novel, aside from a few nips and tucks to update the story.

In all, I'd say good effort, but can we please have fewer explosions next time?

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOU could be suddenly thrust into a new social circle and the results will be wonderful. Your new friends won't be concerned with mundane matters like money. They'll live for the moment. When you're in their company, you feel as dreams really can come true.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A NEW relationship could take you by surprise. You and your new sidekick will be spending more and more time with each other and this could threaten an old friend. They don't appreciate being sidelined for a newcomer. Maybe it's best you put some space between the two of you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

A ROMANTIC relationship is showing signs of strain. A more rewarding union is on its way. In the meantime, you may be inspired to start a creative project. Your luck is very strong when it comes to games of chance, too. Do yourself a favour and plan something very special.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

A NEW source of income could unexpectedly fall into your lap. Of course, you'll have to break a bad habit if you're going to make the most of this opportunity. An irritable youngster may be angry with you for spending so much time away from home.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU may have to defy your boss or an authority figure in a public place. This could cause you to lose your job or incur a hefty fine. Fortunately, you have friends in high places. Calling upon one of your guardian angels will put you back on the path to good luck.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

TEAMING up with a business or romantic partner gives you a new lease on life. Although you've always prided yourself on being independent, you have to admit it is nice to have someone watching your back. An authority figure could blame you for something you didn't do.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

THE chance to buy a home could fall into your lap. Set your sights on a place that affords beautiful vistas of nature. Such a place would allow you to keep a variety of pets. An animal lover like you would benefit from a place where dogs, cats and horses can roam freely.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

BREAKING away from a redundant relationship is critical to your personal growth. Although the person in question has helped you in the past, this union no longer serves any purpose. Fortunately, a relative or neighbour will help you make this transition.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

THE chance to go back to school, travel abroad or publish a piece of writing could come your way quite suddenly. You can't afford to dilly-dally over this offer; accept it immediately. An embarrassing secret could come to light. In situations like these, actions speak louder than words.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

LAUNCHING a fitness regimen now will put you in the best shape. Embark on a routine that involves regular exercise, nutritious food and plenty of sleep. You'll see results almost immediately. A technological breakdown could force you to cancel travel plans.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

A TEACHING or writing opportunity will draw favourable publicity. People love the way you communicate ideas. Don't be surprised if you inspire somebody to change career paths. Beware of overindulging as your system is quite delicate now. If you do feel distress, get a check up.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOU'RE tired of putting on an act all the time. Revealing the secret part of your nature to the public will be liberating. Of course, not everyone will be pleased by what they see. Someone close may be astonished to learn what you really think about a political or religious issue.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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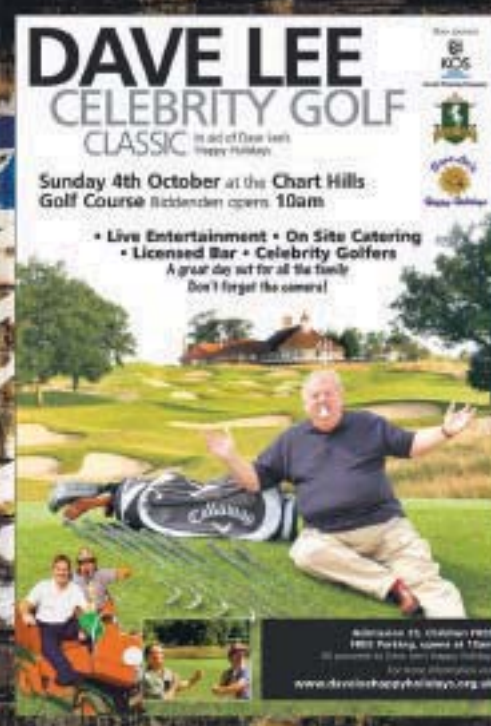
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	6				2		5	1
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HARD

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CRYPTIC CLUES

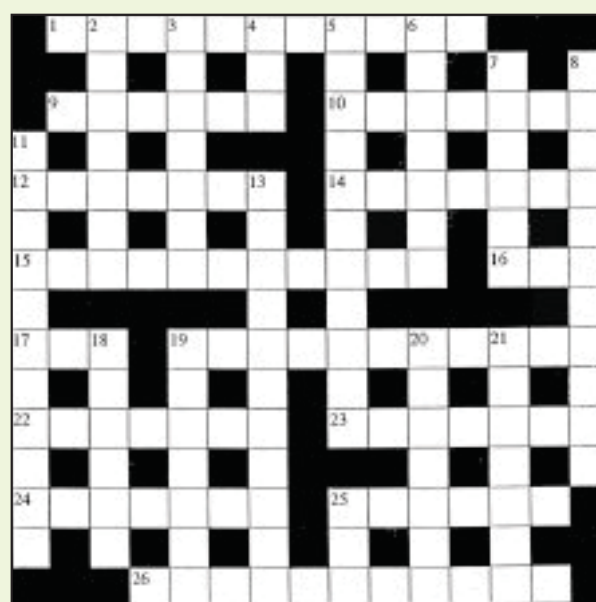
ACROSS

- 1 Making an excursion with no end of care in low-set two-wheeler (8-3)
- 9 Stanley's said to have a verse (6)
- 10 Some fail mental test. It's a pain (7)
- 12 Redirect battered tourist eastwards (7)
- 14 Do bet for elderly lady (7)
- 15 VIM (3,8)
- 16 48 out of 50 will leave it (3)
- 17 Some outmoded teenager of the 1960s (3)
- 19 Slogan that might be heard coming from long-distance racing-driver (8-3)
- 22 Glorious night (7)
- 23 Strip worn by Americans (7)
- 24 Meat cooked in ovens (7)
- 25 Blanch left in sandy area (6)
- 26 Navy's way in London (5,6)

DOWN

- 2 Worker getting a wrong mark including hour for animal disease (7)
- 3 Something unparalleled in old royal palace (7)
- 4 Disorientated topless maid (3)
- 5 Impressive gorge in Arizona (5,6)
- 6 We were overdrawn, a couple of newcomers first were acknowledged (7)
- 7 Wait, say, for heavy load (6)
- 8 Hackneyed poetry rewritten about horse? On the contrary (11)
- 11 Hair taking it for granted? (11)
- 13 Same opportunity gamblers might have (5,6)
- 18 Governess expected Ann to turn up (6)
- 19 No choice? (7)
- 20 New clue about a reactor initially using this energy (7)
- 21 Stop filming lice coming from dead skin (7)
- 25 Vehicle loan brought up (3)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Side by side (5,2,4)
- 9 Lapwing (6)
- 10 Overcome (7)
- 12 Stole livestock (7)
- 14 Drop rugby ball (5-2)
- 15 Cheap (11)
- 16 Greek T (3)
- 17 Bread roll (3)
- 19 Before written records (11)
- 22 Beached (7)
- 23 Singlet (anag.) (7)
- 24 A wearing away (7)
- 25 Garden flower (6)
- 26 Former county in NE England (4,3,4)

DOWN

- 2 RC bishopric of Rome (4,3)
- 3 Wrap round (7)
- 4 Exclude (3)
- 5 Doubling up (11)
- 6 Sweetly attractive (7)
- 7 Pail (6)
- 8 Articulating (11)
- 11 Pioneer (5-6)
- 13 Social occasion (6-5)
- 18 Slender (6)
- 19 Dearth (7)
- 20 Three-wheeler (7)
- 21 Retains (anag.) (7)
- 25 Lair (3)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No117

EASY

4	2	1	9	7	5	8	3	
8	5	3	4	2	6	7	1	9
9	7	6	1	3	8	2	4	5
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2	9	4	7	6	1	5	3	8
6	1	8	3	5	2	9	7	4
7	3	5	8	9	4	1	2	6

MEDIUM

7	1	5	8	2	9	5	3	4
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3	2	8	7	9	6	1	4	5
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HARD

5	1	3	4	9	6	2	8	7
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4	7	8	1	2	3	5	6	9
8	5	1	9	6	2	7	3	4
7	6	2	8	3	4	9	5	1
9	3	4	7	5	1	8	2	6
1	4	6	5	7	8	3	9	2
5	2	7	3	1	8	6	4	9
3	8	9	2	4	6	1	7	5

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No117

ACROSS: 1 Safari park 6 Scot 9 Abuzz
10 Inch 11 Styx 13 Stealing the show 14
Awarding 16 Piracy 18 Ablaze 19 Quainter
22 Jewel in the crown 24 Nina 25 Uvea
26 Luigi 27 Toed 28 Playwright. **DOWN:**
1 Swansea 2 Fluke 3 Razzle-dazzle 4
Poignant 5 Recite 7 Cut-throat 8 Taxiway
12 Semicircular 15 Allowance 17 Bushbaby
18 Adjunct 20 Run riot 21 Snivel 23 Owing.

QUICK SOLUTION No119

19 Paucity 20 Trishaw 21 Retina 25 Den.
11 Trail-blazer 13 Dinner-dance 18 Narrow
6 Winsome 7 Bucket 8 Pronouncing
2 Holy See 3 Envelop 4 Bar 5 Jackknifing
25 Dahlia 26 Tyne and Wear. **DOWN:**
22 Aground 23 Glisten 24 Erosion
Inexpensive 16 Tau 17 Bum 19 Prehistoric
10 Conquer 12 Rustled 14 Knock-on 15
ACROSS: 1 Cheek by jowl 9 Plover

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PROPERTY NEWS

Google set to move in on property market

GOOGLE is believed to be developing plans to launch a property portal in the UK that would compete with Rightmove.

According to analysts, talks are progressing with estate agents and listings on the new site could be free, unlike Rightmove's, with revenues generated from advertising.

Rightmove currently operates the UK's largest property portal and claims to advertise about 90 per cent of all homes for sale.

Rival website FindaProperty.com is predicting that 2010 will be a year of "consolidation rather than fireworks" for the UK housing market, with house price growth likely to be in the region of -2 per cent to +4 per cent.

The firm expects pent-up need for people to sell to affect the market in January and February, resulting in a 10 per cent surge in stock that could create further price dips across the UK.

FindaProperty director Michael O'Flynn ended the report by saying: "Confidence is on the rise as the UK is looking set to come out of recession in Q4 of this year."

Drop in prices a blow for retirement funds

BRITONS' reliance on property has left more than one million over-50s looking gloomily on their retirement prospects, according to a recent study.

According to a poll by insurer LV=, 12 per cent of homeowners aged 50 and over are relying on capital growth from their homes to part-fund their non-working years.

The boom years of the UK's housing market encouraged lower contributions to pension schemes in the belief that house prices would continue to rise.

The expectation continues, despite the average home having lost £27,250 in value over the past two years, with 29 per cent of 4,000 people questioned expecting prices to recover within five years.

Meanwhile, 17 per cent are proposing to improve their homes to adjust their losses and 21 per cent will save more for retirement.

LV= spokeswoman Vanessa Owen said: "In a matter of months millions of pre-retirees have seen both their property and pension fund values battered. Despite this, their confidence in the long-term value of bricks and mortar remains."



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Estate agents feel the pressure in recession

■ BY NICK AMES

WHILE house prices may be on the rise due to a restricted supply of sellers, new figures show that one in six estate agencies has closed over the past year.

Research carried out by The Local Data Company across the UK's largest markets during the 12 months to October 2009 shows 142 outlets – 15.8 per cent – shut.

Chains of five units or more were worst hit, losing 54 outlets – 16.8 per cent – compared with 89 independents – 15.2 per cent.

Looking at the chains based on figures for the whole country, Halifax was the biggest casualty, shutting 30.6 per cent of its branches, going from 147 to 102.

Baird remains the most dominant force, with 174 outlets compared with 218 in 2008, which is still a large drop of 20.2 per cent.

Savills closed just six of its 80 branches – a cut of 7.5 per cent.

James Moss is a director at Curzon Investment Property, one firm to have bucked the trend.

He said: "The closures are a direct result of the property crash, but the other huge problem we have is that people see estate agents more like window salesmen than doctors.

"With no mandatory licensing system in the UK, a murderer could get out of jail one day and become an estate agent the next.

"While the best estate agents are great, often they are few and far between and it's no wonder that many less reputable ones have closed.

"This means that overall standards are often low compared with America, Australia or France, where agents are fully licensed and held in high esteem.

"While various trade bodies have voluntary schemes, by definition these won't catch the crooks.

"Mandatory licensing of all estate agents is vital if we're to improve the quality of service and build the standing of the profession in the eyes of the public."



TOUGH TIMES: Estate agents have struggled in the downturn, while their industry also has an image problem

Tories pledge to axe unpopular HIPs

FIGURES from the Conservative Party claim that some two million house-sellers have so far stumped up a combined £657.6 million for Home Information Packs (HIPs).

The packs were phased in during 2007, just as the UK property market began to crumble, and critics claim their usefulness has remained in

question as they do not contain the one document a buyer most wants to see – a property survey.

However, the Tories claim that HIPs have raised £94 million for the Treasury in the form of VAT and are promising to get rid of the packs if they take office.

Only the need for an Energy Performance Certificate, current-

ly part of the HIP, would be maintained.

Shadow housing minister Grant Shapps said: "By imposing a £657.6 million burden on the housing market during the longest recession in living memory, Labour's short-sighted policy is milking the industry dry."

He added: "They should have

listened to the consumers, the industry and the Conservative Party and scrapped this discredited scheme before it even began."

Conservatives claim that the number of homes for sale remains at a record low and HIPs can be blamed for removing speculative vendors from the market.

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Kennington £290,000
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Ashford OIEO £99,950
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Kennington OIEO £140,000
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Kennington £175,000
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Ashford OIEO £160,000
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Ashford



£134,950

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Kennington



£134,995

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Ashford



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Kingsnorth



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Kennington



£177,500

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Ashford



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Willesborough



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Ashford



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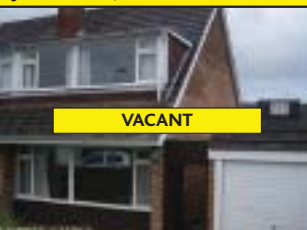
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MOTORS NEWS



Citroën delivers little touch of luxury with C3

IT'S a small car, but the Citroën C3 launched on January 15 represents a big statement by the increasingly confident French marque.

It delivers a larger feel for those who really are trading a family hatchback or something bigger in favour of this five-door supermini – the airy cabin is also aided by a panoramic front screen on all but the lowliest models (from £10,790).

This brings a stylish luxury touch to the C3 range and defines its more upmarket stance compared to its predecessor.



Venga is due here soon

KIA'S all-new and crisply styled Venga arrives soon to attack the Ford Fiesta sector.

Touted as a premium product, it has Honda Jazz-like baby MPV proportions with an unusually long wheelbase and high roofline for a big cabin.

Sliding rear seats fold flat to the floor for the van-like cargo capability preferred by supermini buyers.

Both the 75bhp 1.4-litre petrol and 115bhp 1.6-litre diesel powertrains will be available with Stop and Go technology to save fuel and emissions. Luxury options include a tilt/slide panoramic roof.



Mazda's sporty MPV 5 gets even better for '10

NEW Year changes for the sporty Mazda5 MPV have upgraded kit and the line-up, with more easily identifiable Takara and Furano models replacing the previous TS2 and Sport.

The '5' has always been both good to drive and versatile with sliding rear doors and easy-folding seating for seven at a pinch.

But the overhaul disguises a price hike of nearly £1,000 for the four petrol and two diesel models – now from £17,150 and £19,555 respectively.



QUICK OFF THE MARK: The new five-door Vauxhall Astra is a stunning all-rounder and includes innovative thinking about how people use storage in a typical family hatch

Astra delivers an upbeat plotline for the new year

ROAD TEST VAUXHALL ASTRA

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

LET us hope that 2010 starts a new episode for Vauxhall after a plotline last year worthy of a TV soap.

One minute Vauxhall's US overlord General Motors was inviting bidders for the UK brand and continental counterpart Opel and then it was all change – 'no deal' said the Yanks.

It soured a year in which Vauxhall/Opel's Vectra replacement, the Insignia, scooped the European Car of the Year Award 2009, and the sixth generation Astra nearly earned the 2010 gong, for what would have been a remarkable double.

And the latter probably deserved the honour more than the Insignia; the new five-door Astra is built at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside – which won the right after becoming Europe's most efficient GM plant – and is a stunning all-rounder, echoing the Insignia's slick styling while setting high cabin standards for the family hatchback sector.

This includes innovative thinking about how people use storage in a typical family hatch and, as with its predecessor, a racy downswept roofline that does not eat into rear headroom.

The sector currently accounts for 23 per cent

of registrations, but 60 per cent of that goes to the company/fleet sector and Vauxhall wants to woo the more discerning and profitable private buyer – the Astra is right on the money there.

It drives as well as it looks; the previous car was no slouch, but Vauxhall delved into Britain's industrial past and used a Watts linkage for the rear of the chassis – another ingenious invention by 18th century steam pioneer James Watt.

This counters lateral pressures when cornering hard and makes the Astra one of the best handling cars in its sector.

Nimbleness is aided by a revitalised engine line-up including an eagerly awaited all-new 140PS (138bhp) 1.4-litre turbo petrol unit, replacing the conventional 1.8 unblown unit of the old car.

We've said it before, but lightweight yet punchy petrol engines could halt the switch to diesel as they begin to deliver more low down urge, better economy and lower emissions.

This engine (from £17,290) certainly sits well here and if you want more petrol power there is also a classy 180PS 1.6-litre Turbo (from £20,555) – the most powerful unit available for now. Astra prices start at £15,675.



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ALFA ROMEO

147, JTDm DUCATI CORSE 02 Special Edition, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser power steering traction control twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, carbonio black metallic, 5000 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, 1.6 TS LUSSO, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag e/w immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, beige metallic, 38061 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, 1.4, 2001, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, black, 66439 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A4, 2.0 T FSE SE 4dr, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, grey, 60000 miles, £9400, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, QUATTRO 225, 2002, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags pas sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking , blue, 93731 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 320i SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels auto transmission central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering reverse parking aid, blue, 26014 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

X3, SPORT AUTO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control drivers airbag e/w immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 41968 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

LACETTI, SX 1.6, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player tinted glass twin airbags remote central locking, silver, 20123 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE, 2005, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering sports seats, silver, 11416 miles, £3500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TACUMA, SX 1.6, 2006, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player, blue, 11123 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, ak07 zpp, air conditioning, power steering, electric front windows, remote central locking, remote alarm, twin air bags, abs, radio cassette, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, rear upholstery, adjustable steering column, beige, 14700 miles, £5995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

C1, 3, g5f6kwc, 1 registered keeper franchise approved abs power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag immobiliser £35 road tax, grey, 25047 miles, £5495, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.4 POR, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, white over 4000 cars in group stock, 50015 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1997, red fiat bravo 1.4, 1997, very very nice and clean car, drives well and economic no dent. clean in and out mot until october 2010 6 months tax power steering, elec windows, central locking, airbag, radio/cd player, etc... really very good drives and cheap to run! email is.....sash31@yahoo.com or call or txt 07940721966, no time weasters please need any picture or viewers are welcome anytime... cheers and thanks for viewing, red, 140 miles, £790, osarobo ogjemudia, 07940721966 (PRIVATE)

PANDA, 4X4, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser power fold mirrors power steering trip computer remote central locking, red, 22583 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6TDCI TITANIUM 110 5DR [DPF], ea58ax, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/vheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, electric mirrors, remote locking, colour coding body., insurance group:8, blue, 3741 miles, £14490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Style, 2007, cd player drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 13940 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 STUDIO, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking metallic paint power steering trip computer, met blue, 14002 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 5, bv56aem, insurance group 6 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels auto remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags sports seats steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment trip computer 1 owner service history, blue, 18000 miles, £7000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 5, hd52jnk, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels auto remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors electrically adjustable drivers seat folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 2 owners service history, sea grey, 46000 miles, £3000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 5, hd52jnk, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels auto remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors electrically adjustable drivers seat folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 2 owners service history, sea grey, 46000 miles, £3000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, I-VTEC SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, satin silver, 23251 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.0I VTEC sport, 2005, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control electric windows front fog lights multiple airbags power steering sun roof remote central locking isofix child seat points remote auto controls, silver, 37000 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)


JAZZ, I-V-TEC EX, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote auto controls, blue, 1390 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

JAZZ, SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote auto controls, blue, 44000 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

COUPE, 2.0 SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering sports seats trip computer twin airbags xenon headlamps remote central locking, platinum silver, 9129 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GETZ, CDX 5dr, g0j6aao, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, alarm, air conditioning, stereo, electric front windows, locking wheel nuts, isofix, 13" alloys, 14" alloy wheels, pas, ashtray, remote fuel filler release, black radiator grille, electric operated/heated door mirrors, front seatbelt pretensioners + load limiters, sunglasses holder, tinted glass, heated rear window, digital clock, body colour door mirrors, black side protection mouldings, glovebox, height adjustable driver's seat, body colour door handles, body colour bumpers, 60/40 asymmetric split folding rear seat, front seatback pockets, three 3 point rear seatbelts, front overriders, high mounted rear brake light, cigarette lighter, roof aerial, electronic headlamp levelling, audible lights on warning, front wipers with variable intermittent facility, seaside blue, 40000 miles, £4995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)



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2006 56	SAAB 9-3 1.9TID Vector Sport, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 10,500 miles, Mtl grey. Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cruise control, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Sports seats, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Remote central locking, Drivers airbags, Anti theft system, Electric mirrors, Alarm, Front armrest, PAS, Air con, Central locking, C/C, Foglights, FSH, Sat Nav, Mobile phone Bluetooth connection. Business Pack. 6 Speed gearbox..... £8,295
2004	SAAB 9-3 1.9TD Linear , 4 Doors, Manual, Diesel, 47,000 miles, Metallic Steel Grey, ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Full Service History, Park distance control, Traction control..... £7,495
2005 05	SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport , 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners. Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Multi function steering wheel, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Reverse parking aid, Part Service History, Air conditioning, Climate Control, Park distance control..... £7,295
2002 52	SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero , 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 69,000 miles, Steel Grey, ABS, Alloy wheels, Full Electric Pack, Cruise control, Park distance control, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork. Tinted glass..... £5,495
2001 Y	SAAB 9-3 2.2 TID SE , 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 122,000 miles, Metallic blue, 2 Owners. Rear wiper, ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Auto remote control, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Central locking, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Foglights, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Full Service History, Alarm, Climate Control, Cloth upholstery, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Child locks, Service indicator. Insurance Group: 12..... £3,295

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MATRIX, Gsi, oy56 gn, air conditioning, cd player, radio, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, central locking, roof rails, twin air bags, abs, adjustable steering column, alloy wheels, silver, 23500 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

ISUZU

RODEO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, vx06xey, jiffy pizza hot & cold snack wagon, super large rear oven, super large fridge display area, hand wash, silver, 34000 miles, £13995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 SE Auto, re04 wgd, air conditioning, climate control, full leather, power steering, parking sensor, traction control, trip computer, cruise control, adjustable steering column, electric windows, electric mirrors, auto-dip rearview, remote central locking, remote alarm, abs, twin air bags, curtain airbags, centre armrest, rear headrests, multi-disc cd player, radio cassette, rain-sensing wipers, front fog lamps, trip computer, alloy wheels, green, 33500 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

IS, 2002, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, black, 35000 miles, £11800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, 2002, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, black, 35000 miles, £11800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-TYPE, V8 R Auto, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation television, midnight, 47500 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, V8 (Euro 4), 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 38091 miles, £11900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KIA

RIO, 5, ic58rgv, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd steering wheel rake adjustment, clear silver, 5178 miles, £8695, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

SEDONA, 5, ic58jil, insurance group 13 abs alloy wheels body coloured bumpers climate control drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking reverse parking aid roof rails side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment, blue, 8136 miles, £14995, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

SOUL, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering traction control remote central locking, black, 3452 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LAMBORGHINI

DIABLO, 1998, purple metallic with cream leather, 57000 miles, £59950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 130 TD5 Box Body, bt51tdv, remote alarm, power steering, tow pack, 4x4, 130 td5 single cab with box rear body, price is £8, 995 + £1, 349.25 vat = £10, 344.25 total. road tax (lgv) is £185 per year. white, 120000 miles, £8995, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DISCOVERY, TD5 GS Manual 7 seater, g530fm, climate control, cd player, twin sunroofs, abs, remote alarm, remote central locking, traction control, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, power steering, twin air bags, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, tow pack, electric mirrors, electric windows, alloy wheels, 4x4, road tax (diesel car) is £215 per year. bonatti grey metallic, 50000 miles, £10995, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8i, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking remote auto controls, red, 17733 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

6, 1.8, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, red, 55 miles, £21000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8i, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking remote auto controls, red, 17733 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LDV

MAXUS, Lwb 3.5/95 Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, bv57hru, dual passenger alarm, side load door, cd player, air bag, abs, remote central locking, power steering, immobiliser, electric windows, gr lined, gah fridge, electric standby available if required, over fifty fridge vans in stock, www.BHVR.co.uk, white, 26000 miles, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

LEXUS

GS, 300 SE Auto, ax03bvp, full leather, air conditioning, climate control, electric sunroof, electric seats, height adjustable seat, heated seats, power steering, traction control, cruise control, adjustable steering column, auto-dip rearview, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, abs, twin air bags, curtain airbags, centre armrest, rear headrests, multi-disc cd player, radio cassette, rain-sensing wipers, front fog lamps, trip computer, alloy wheels, green, 33500 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

IS, 2002, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, black, 35000 miles, £11800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, 2002, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, black, 35000 miles, £11800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LOTUS

ELISE, 1.8 111R, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering remote central locking, grey over 4000 cars in group stock, 8967 miles, £20000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ELISE, S, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player, black, 11000 miles, £26000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

EXIGE, S - PERFORMANCE SPORTS TOURING, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player power steering sports seats remote central locking, blue, 8100 miles, £30000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MAZDA

2, 1.4, 2008, red, 55 miles, £11900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

2, TS, 2007, adriatic blue, 7310 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3, 1.6, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior power steering single cd player sports seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 31000 miles, £12600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3, TS, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, blue, 21500 miles, £6550, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

5, 2.0 SPORT 7 seater, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points roof bars remote auto controls, silver, 43349 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

5, TS, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player sports seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 21500 miles, £6550, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

6, 1.8, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, red, 55 miles, £21000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8i, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking remote auto controls, red, 17733 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

A CLASS, A170 Avantgarde SE auto new shape just 24000 miles, ix55uza, remote alarm, remote central locking, half leather, centre armrest, folding rear seats, rear headrests, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, traction control, abs, isofix, multiple airbags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, steering wheel audio controls, 16" alloys, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fa regulated, aluminium silver, 24000 miles, £9995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

E-CLASS, E220 CDI Avantgarde SE Auto, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering, black, 39686 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

E-CLASS, 280 CDI Avantgarde, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel electric windows full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control twin airbags remote central locking, metallic silver, 31155 miles, £18500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 2002, silver, 60000 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

COOPER, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, blue, 40655 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player trip computer remote central locking, silver, 25000 miles, £9500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

NISSAN

350Z, 3.5 V6, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior power steering single cd player sports seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 31000 miles, £12600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

350Z, 3.5 V6, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior power steering single cd player sports seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 31000 miles, £12600, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MICRA, TEKNA, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid split folding rear seats trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic faded denim, 12600 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MICRA, S 3DR, 2006, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering single cd player twin airbags remote central locking, coral blue, 36452 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MICRA, 1.2 ACENTA, 2007, red, 10932 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

NOTE, 1.4 SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, red, 9700 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

1007, 1.6 SPORT, 2007, alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, red, 9700 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

206, STYLE SE3 3dr, gj54 oxz, power steering, abs, cd player, radio, twin air bags, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, rear headrests, rear wash/wipe, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, silver, 23600 miles, £4395, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

307, HDI 90 LX (AC), 2001, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 48822 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

307, GT, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats sports seats remote central locking, silver, 13000 miles, £8100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

Expert, 815 1.9d, rx54xe. cloth upholstery, head restraints, twin sliding doors, bulkhead, barn doors, dual passenger seat, radio, air bag, power steering, remote central locking, immobiliser, white, 79000 miles, £3745, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

EXPERT, 9 Seat Tepee Comfort H1 L2 120 bhp 6 Spd, ds08bqv, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, parking sensor, power steering, abs, air bag, head restraints, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, folding rear seats, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, twin sliding doors, anti-theft system, centre armrest, child locks, 3-person rear seat, dual passenger seat, rear headrests, barn doors, red, 12000 miles, £12745, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911, C 2 S (997), 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking climate control cruise control electric windows heated seats metallic paint multi cd player leather interior power steering satellite navigation, blue, 22000 miles, £44900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

911, 3.6 C2, 2003, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering satellite navigation sports seats trip computer remote central locking remote auto controls, black, 48422 miles, £23500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

911, CARREARA as TIPTRONIC S, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation tinted glass traction control trip computer remote central locking, meteor grey metallic, 9500 miles, £59990, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, EXPRESSION 16v 3dr, gj06kyo, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, air conditioning, cd player, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, stability control, electric front windows, electric mirrors, steering wheel audio controls, visit our website for details of 50 similar Cars. silver, 54000 miles, £5290, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

CLIO, CAMPUS 8v 5dr, fd57pzk, immobiliser, remote central locking, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, twin air bags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, radio cassette, visit our website for details of 50 similar Cars. silver, 20000 miles, £4990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

CLIO, CAMPUS 8v 5dr, fd57pzd, immobiliser, remote central locking, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, child locks, twin air bags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, radio cassette, visit our website for details of 50 similar Cars. silver, 18000 miles, £4990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, 1.9 DCI 130 DYNAMIQUE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, mercury, 34527 miles, £6000, Ramsgate

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Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies at our Chatham New Bridge House Centre:

PROGRAMME MANAGER

£21,273

We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a Hospitality/Catering Foundation Learning course to 14-19 year olds, which includes e2e Provision and Schools.

You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in Hospitality and Catering to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course.

ASSISTANT TRAINER

£13,466

We are looking for a motivated individual to assist the Programme Manager to develop and deliver a Hospitality/Catering Foundation Learning course to 14-19 year olds which includes e2e Provision and Schools.

You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in Hospitality and Catering to increase their participation and progression.

Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

We have the following vacancy at our Pathways Construction Centre in Chatham:

TRAINER

£17,834

We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education.

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme for young people.

This post will be based at our Pathways Centre which specialises in Construction

Contact carlie.kimpton@nacro.org.uk or call Carlie Kimpton on 01634 402761 for an application pack.

We have the following vacancies at our Sittingbourne Centre:

YOUTH WORKER - PART TIME (18HRS) ESF Switch Project

£7,946

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who can motivate and engage young people between the ages of 14-16 on short motivational courses. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent.



TRAINER - ESF TIE Project

£17,834

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme with 14-19 year old young people. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent, and including the Young Offenders Institute in Medway.

This post will work from our Sittingbourne Centre



Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.
Closing date for all the above posts is 8 January 2010

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, in particular reception type duties at our Pathways Centre. Travel and lunch expenses are paid.

Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.



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MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone
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Further Education Sports Co-Ordinator

Ref: PR029

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15 hours per week (Medway and Maidstone Campus)

We are looking for an individual with a proven track record in Sports Development and the Further Education sector, to play a key role in increasing participation towards the 5 hour offer in sport and physical activity for young people aged 16-19yrs. This will entail the coordination and further development of the college's pathways and support, contributing to the development of the healthy college award and the cross-college activity programme, including outdoor pursuits and active leisure initiatives. As part of the Sports team, the ideal candidate will have excellent communication and leadership skills. Experience of working with young people and liaising with a wide range of organisations including schools within the three school sports partnerships, sports clubs and sports governing bodies is desirable.

Closing date: Friday 15 January 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Picture: ADY KERRY



FRESH START: Lisa Dobriskey heads to Scotland aiming to secure her first senior cross-country title

Lisa begins New Year campaign in Scotland

LISA Dobriskey will kick-off her 2010 campaign on Saturday by taking part in the Great Edinburgh International Cross Country.

The 26-year-old 1500-metre runner, who enjoyed a successful 2009 season, is looking to continue her rise up the world rankings and will begin by bidding for her first cross-country title at Edinburgh's Holyrood Park.

Dobriskey has been a regular at the meeting in the past, but the 15th place finish she recorded in 2008 remains her best finish at the event.

Buoyed by winning a silver medal at the World Athletics Championships and by post-

ATHLETICS

ing her maiden sub four-minute 1500m last summer, Dobriskey faces several challenges this year.

The World Indoor Championships at Doha in March and the European Championships at Barcelona in July will be among her main priorities. In October she is in line to travel to India to defend her 2006 1500m Commonwealth title.

Before she competes in the World Indoor Championships, Dobriskey has confirmed

she will run in the Aviva International Match at Glasgow later this month and the Aviva Grand Prix in Birmingham on February 20.

She said: "The Aviva Grand Prix is a world-class event and is always an opportunity to test yourself against some world-class athletes, which is great competition for us, but also exciting for the crowd to see."

Despite picking up two serious injuries to her leg and back, which almost ruined her 2009 season, the Ashford athlete has continued to train hard. In November she travelled to Kenya for intensive altitude training alongside coach George Gandy.

Picture: RACINGAPRILIA.COM



MORE TO COME: Leon Camier remains confident

Camier finds going tough in his first World series outing

SUPERBIKES

NEW World Superbike Championship rider Leon Camier had a tough start to the season with a poor first outing at testing in Valencia.

The 23-year-old from Ashford, who won the British Superbike Championship last year, began his preparations for his debut season in the World series with a three-day test with the Aprilia team at Valencia in Spain.

It didn't go as well as he would have liked as he could only post the eighth fastest time out of ten riders, which meant he finished behind team-mate Max Biaggi and fellow Brits Leon Haslam, James Toseland, Jonathan Rea and Cal Crutchlow.

By the end of the test, Biaggi topped the time sheets, a full 1.4 seconds faster than Camier. That, according to Camier, isn't cause for concern as he believes there is more to come from him and the bike.

He told Yourashford: "When people look at the times they are going to see my team-mate is at the top and I'm towards the bottom, but that doesn't worry me. He is used to the bike and has ridden the circuit heaps of times."

"We are going a different way with our testing by trying to build up consistent race pace rather than lap times. Testing is not the most enjoyable thing and riders often just tend to keep throwing new tyres on the bike and try and get the quickest lap times. We are trying to learn everything about the bike and the new parts so we are ready in time for the new season."

Camier and the team will head to the Portimao circuit in Portugal for a test later this month. The 2010 World Superbike Championship begins at Australia's Phillip Island circuit on March 1.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



BEATEN: Ashford's young side toiled in the freezing conditions as they were thrashed by Kent 1 title challengers Cranbrook at the weekend



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

Title challengers make easy work of Ashford

RUGBY

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Cranbrook 41 Ashford 5

ASHFORD'S winless run in Kent 1 was extended to six games after a thrashing from promotion hopefuls Cranbrook.

The visitors struggled to cope with second-placed Cranbrook early on and found themselves 19-0 behind after just ten minutes.

Missed tackles gave Cranbrook's backs time and space to open up the Ashford defence on a number of occasions.

The visitors responded in the second-half with a try from Ali Vant, but Cranbrook maintained their first-half performance to secure a convincing 41-5 victory.

Ashford's head coach, Dai Fussell, admitted he knew the game would test his young players and was not surprised by the 41-5 result, which leaves his side in ninth position in the table.

He said: "To be honest we just didn't play well and Cranbrook are a really decent outfit and at the top end of the table. We missed a lot of tackles and they proved to be crucial because Cranbrook scored from them. We played well in patches, but when you miss the amount of tack-

les we did, then you do not expect to win games."

Although Fussell's side are without a league win since October's 23-5 victory against HSB, the Ashford head coach is confident his side will heed the lessons learned this season and avoid relegation.

He said: "It's a transitional year this season so we are trying out a lot of young players and they are learning a lot of lessons. Next year we hope to be in a much better position, but we are confident of avoiding relegation. We have seven points and there are teams below us on two and four points. I think by the end of the season we can achieve a mid-table finish with 16 points."

Ashford will aim to pick up their first win of 2010 when they host bottom side Sheppey this Saturday.

Key backs Kent's plan to play 'home' game at Oval

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

KENT skipper Rob Key believes the club's decision to stage a Twenty20 home game at the Brit Oval in the summer will help the county's future recruitment of players.

Hosting the Kent Spitfires' T20 clash with old foes the Essex Eagles at the Oval in Surrey has predictably been met with a degree of scepticism from some of the club's members, but Key has urged all Kent supporters to look at the bigger picture.

The club hope the game, scheduled for July 9, will bring in extra revenue during the county's T20 campaign as they look to fill the 23,500 capacity ground in Kennington.

Key told this newspaper: "I think it's fantastic, it's obviously been in the pipeline for a few weeks and as captain I am aware of how important it is going to be from a financial point of view. For the last couple of years, like everywhere else, money has been hard to come by and to put out a decent team you need money as much as anything else and this could be a huge part of being able to compete.

"There is always a big jigsaw puzzle trying to make the finances meet with the quality of player you want, so this could make life a lot easier, not just for the team we put out next



FINANCE: Rob Key urges members to look at bigger picture

year, but what we are able to provide for the next generation of Kent players coming through."

For some Kent supporters, however, the move to stage cricket outside the county for the first time in the club's 168-year history is a further blow after Kent chiefs announced a 57 per cent hike in membership last month to allow for the inclusion of T20 cricket. Some of the club's members are hoping to get 100 names on a petition to call for a Special

General Meeting and the news that Kent will play a game in south London, instead of playing at Canterbury or one of the county's outgrounds, has had a mixed response.

Key, who signed a deal to stay at Kent at the end of last season, sympathises with supporters but hopes they will back the club in its ambitious attempts to progress from being a second tier county.

"In the past we have been able to put a half decent side out and that is down to the membership because we are one of the best supported clubs in the country," he said. "Without that we haven't got a great deal, but hopefully they can see this is a good way of supporting us even more and really making a massive difference. We have to look at the bigger picture – there are so many more positives than negatives to come out of this."

As the club embarks on an £8.2 million facelift for the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury, three other T20 fixtures will be played at the county's outgrounds. The Worsley Bridge Road ground in Beckenham will host fixtures against the Somerset Sabres and Surrey Brown Caps, while the hugely popular Nevill in Tunbridge Wells stages the opening game of Kent's T20 campaign against the Sussex Sharks.

Key said: "Taking the games around the county keeps it fresh. T20 is a great product, but like anything you can over kill it. We played at Tunbridge Wells last year and it was a sell out and when you play in front of a packed crowd it is a great feeling for the players."

FOOTBALL



TRIAL: Steve Lovell is confident his side can avoid relegation from Ryman Division One South

Town face tough fixture challenge

ASHFORD Town face a tough start to the New Year with the prospect of a gruelling schedule that will see them play 13 games in the next seven weeks.

The Nuts and Bolts have had a tough time of it this season with 16 games having been postponed so far, with the latest coming at the weekend when Town were due to host Folkestone Invicta at Homelands.

It means Town, who sit bottom of Ryman Division One South, will be playing fixture catch-up for the second-half of the season and with the cold snap now firmly set in the county, it's only likely to get worse.

Manager Steve Lovell, who has guided his side to just two wins so far this season, admits the weather has been a source of frustration in recent weeks, but feels he now has the squad capable of getting the club out of trouble.

Frustrating

He said: "The weather is becoming more and more frustrating because our players are unable to get games and build up a routine. We have had a lot of bad breaks this season.

"We've had a slow start to the campaign and mistakes have cost us wins. Injuries have not helped us and in the next few months the games are going to come thick and fast and we will need players. However, I believe we can get out of trouble."

Town did manage to make one addition during the festive period, with Gillingham youngster Tom Murphy joining the club on work experience. With a number of injuries to his squad, Lovell is keen to add more new signings, but believes it will be tough to attract players at this stage of the season.

Despite having several postponements in the last few weeks, Ashford are surprisingly without a fixture scheduled for this weekend, although Lovell is hoping to organise a friendly to give his players a much-needed run out.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	21	15	5	1	+19	50
2 Worthing	22	14	1	7	+17	43
3 Godalming Town	20	12	3	5	+15	39
4 Walton & Hersham	21	11	4	6	+7	37
5 Croydon Athletic	19	10	6	3	+21	36
6 Fleet Town	20	10	3	7	+11	33
7 Ramsgate	20	9	5	6	+7	32
8 Merstham	21	9	5	7	-1	32
9 Chatham Town	22	9	3	10	-6	30
10 Sittingbourne	18	8	4	6	+7	28
11 Burgess Hill Town	19	8	4	7	+2	28
12 Corinthian-Casuals	21	8	3	10	-3	27
13 Whyteleafe	21	8	2	11	+2	26
14 Dulwich Hamlet	20	6	8	6	0	26
15 Leatherhead	18	7	3	8	+4	24
16 Horsham YMCA	22	5	9	8	-4	24
17 Metropolitan Police	20	5	7	8	+3	22
18 Walton Casuals	20	6	4	10	-7	22
19 Chipstead	22	5	5	12	-14	20
20 Whitstable Town	21	5	2	14	-27	17
21 Eastbourne Town	22	3	7	12	-23	16
22 Ashford Town	18	2	5	11	-30	11

FIXTURES (No fixtures)

Harvey keep trophy hopes alive in freezing conditions

SUNDAY LEAGUE

WILLIAM Harvey Inn kept their Kent Sunday Junior Trophy hopes alive by knocking out Man of Kent in one of three games in the Ashford Sunday League.

With snow and freezing conditions hitting the Ashford area, the majority of fixtures were postponed. However, the all-Ashford clash between Man of Kent and William Harvey Inn played at the Stanhope all-weather pitch survived.

Division Three leaders William Harvey Inn proved to be too strong for their Division Four opponents, as they went on to record a comfortable 3-1 victory. Goals from Joe Ansell and Keith Matthews gave Harvey a 2-0 lead at the break.

A third goal early in the second-half from Kyle Anderson put Harvey on course for victory. Man of Kent responded with Ben Bean's strike, but it proved to be only a consolation goal.

Market Hotel reserves and Lydd braved the conditions in the only game in Division One. Hotel adapted to the conditions well and a brace from Matt Moon and Damian Morse secured a 4-0 win.

In Division Three, Newchurch moved up to eighth in the table following a 1-0 win against high-flying Ashford Cavaliers. Gavin Prowse proved to be the difference between the two sides, as his first-half strike was enough to earn all three points.

A full schedule is due to take place this Sunday, with Premier League title contenders Bromley Green and Bethersden meeting in the Premier Division Cup.



CUP CLASH: Bromley Green (pictured) face high-flying Bethersden in the Premier Division Cup this Sunday

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